

Hafa Adai!

Charter flight to aid stranded Taiwan citizens in Guam, NMI. **PAGE 2**
NMC gets a favorable audit opinion for 13th consecutive year. **PAGE 5**

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Trump supporters try to break through a police barrier, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, at the Capitol in Washington.

AP



U.S. Capitol Police hold protesters at gunpoint near the House Chamber inside the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington.

AP



U.S. Capitol Police with guns drawn stand near a barricaded door as protesters try to break into the House Chamber at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington.

AP



U.S. Capitol Police with guns drawn watch as protesters try to break into the House Chamber at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington.

AP



Supporters of President Donald Trump are confronted by Capitol Police officers outside the Senate Chamber inside the Capitol, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021 in Washington.

AP

IN A BID TO OVERTURN ELECTION

Pro-Trump mob storms US Capitol

By LISA MASCARO, ERIC TUCKER, MARY CLARE JALONICK and ANDREW TAYLOR
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON (AP)—A violent mob loyal to President Donald Trump stormed the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday and forced lawmakers into hiding, in a stunning attempt to overturn America's presidential election, undercut the nation's democracy and keep Democrat Joe Biden from replacing Trump in the White House. **See ELECTION on Page 4**

Torres denounces DC violence

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres denounced yesterday the violent protests in the U.S. Congress that tried to delay the certification of President-

elect Joe Biden as the winner in the November election. Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) assured he's "fine" and fortunately wasn't in the Capitol building when the events in the **See TORRES on Page 4**

Congress validates Biden's victory

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. Congress has formally validated President-elect Joe Biden's presidential election victory on a day that saw a time-honored ceremony become a nightmare of

unprecedented political terror. The House and Senate certified the Democrat's electoral college win early Thursday after a violent throng of pro-Trump rioters spent **See CONGRESS on Page 4**

'Travel bubble' remains pending

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

The cautious resumption of tourism in the CNMI through a planned "travel bubble" arrangement with South Korea is reportedly still "pending," with no immediate word on when the flights will actually take place.

According to a source who has reliable knowledge of the matter, the "travel bubble,"

See TRAVEL on Page 4

AT A GLANCE

As of 6pm, Jan 7, 2021

GUAM	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	7,378	8	7,386
Recovered	7,145	0	7,145
Active	109	8	117
Deaths	123	1	124
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			104,219

SAIPAN	OLD	NEW	TOTAL
Positive	125	0	125
Traced via Travel Screening	99	0	99
Traced via Community Screening	26	0	26
Deaths	2	0	2
Cumulative Number of Persons Tested			22,633*
Days since last community transmission			142

*Total count includes the number of persons tested on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. With guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CHCC has opted not to report active and recovered cases.

Source: Joint Information Center - Guam, Commonwealth Healthcare Corp.

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:

- Red: Least safe
- Orange
- Yellow
- Blue
- Green: Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

INSIDE



BUSINESS

Isla Shave Ice Saipan opens a stall at the Kada Dia Everyday Market in Chalan Kanoa.

PAGE 13



OFF THE WALL

A man who was dressed as Santa Claus is rescued after being entangled with power lines.

PAGE 17



SCIENCE & TECH

A well-preserved Ice Age woolly rhino with many of its internal organs still intact is recovered.

PAGE 18



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Local

Charter flight to aid stranded Taiwan citizens in Guam, NMI

A Taiwan-bound humanitarian charter flight on Jan. 11 will bring to Taipei approximately 50 passengers who are either in need of medical care or stranded

in Guam and on Saipan.

In an email from Taiwan's representative office in Guam, it said the charter flight's passengers include Guam resi-

dents who are unable to seek off-island medical treatment because of the COVID-19 crisis and the canceled direct flights, plus Taiwan citizens who were working in Guam and Saipan who have lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic and intend to return to their homeland in Taiwan.

Regular flights between Taiwan and Guam were suspended last March 2020. Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the passengers will be subject to normal coronavirus regulations.

This flight is a collaboration between the Taiwan and Economic Cultural Office in Guam led by Director-General Paul Chen and the government of Guam, with the assistance of the United Chinese Association of Guam, the Guam International Airport Authority, the Guam Memorial Hospital, Taiwan's Ministry of Health and Welfare, and Taiwanese communities in the territories, among others.

The flight will be operated by China Airlines and will depart Guam at 3:30pm on Jan. 11 and arrive in Taipei, Taiwan at 5:55pm.

It was learned that the passengers will include five Guamanian patients and four of their family members. (*Justine Nauta*)

3 has perfect attendance for entire 2 years

Saipan Republican Reps. Ivan A. Blanco, Joel C. Camacho, and John Paul P. Sablan all posted perfect attendance during their entire two-year term in the 21st Legislature, according to the House's record of attendance.

Blanco, Camacho, and Sa-

blan all attended 44 regular and special sessions.

Rep. Franklin R. Babauta (Ind-Saipan), who replaced Edwin K. Propst two months ago, was perfect as he attended all five sessions.

Propst was perfect in all 39 sessions during his term. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

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NMTI sidesteps legal liability

By JUSTINE NAUTA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Trades Institute doesn't want to get sued so it moved ahead with its reopening last Jan. 4, instead of reopening in February, as was suggested by Gov. Ralph DLG Torres.

Speaking at NMTI's board meeting at their facility in Lower Base last Jan. 7, NMTI chair John Oliver Gonzales said that NMTI classes that were abruptly suspended last March due to the COVID-19 pandemic need to be finished. Resuming those suspended classes will allow NMTI to sidestep any potential legal liability of students potentially suing the school and its administration, he said.

NMTI's situation, he said, is unlike that of the Northern Marianas College and the Public School System. "As an educational institution, we are different. We must open our doors, because...we have commitments and liabilities that we must fulfill and complete," said Gonzales.

Gonzales told *Saipan Tribune* that if NMTI took the advice to open up at a later time, this will leave a window for students to sue the administration for depriving them of an education and/or getting a

certificate that can help them get a better salary.

NMTI chief executive officer Agnes McPhetres echoed Gonzales, saying that when students register with NMTI, it is a contract between the students and NMTI.

"For example, the contract between the Public School System and us [NMTI] to train their individuals in the electrical [field]. We did not finish [the class but] they already paid us. So that's a liability," said McPhetres, adding that the NMTI board wants to clear up any liability/debt before transitioning to the board of trustees that will be the governing board of NMTI when it transitions into the Northern Marianas Technical Institute. Right now, NMTI is considered a non-government institution; it will become a government agency when it becomes a technical institute.

"Our board of directors wants to clean that up, so that we can say, we have fulfilled all of our obligations, therefore you have a clean slate. ... So we went ahead and opened the school," said McPhetres.

Torres earlier advised NMTI to resume classes in February so that the current nonprofit board of directors have a window to "dispose of

See NMTI on Next Page



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GO WELL



Early release OK'd for man convicted of killing infant

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
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REPORTER

The Board of Parole has approved parole for a man who is currently serving a 60-year sentence for kill-

ing a 6-month-old infant.

Deliberations on the parole application of Reynaldo A. Manila, 59, ended yesterday with the board approving his request for early release.

Manila will be released but on the condition that he will be subjected to deportation proceedings.

Saipan Tribune tried to reach out to board chair Ramon Camacho for a statement but he has yet to re-

spond as of press time.

Aside from Manila, parole applications were also approved for Sung Joon Park, Shi Li Hui, Sheng Qui Yin, Feilong Zheng, Anthony Muna, Marcus Untalun, and Es-ekiel Smith.

All the foreign inmates approved for parole were released on condi-

tion that they be placed under deportation proceedings.

The mother, father, and sister of the infant who was killed had opposed Manila's early release, stating that he never reached out to them to seek forgiveness. The Office of the Attorney General also opposed Manila's early release.

TRAVEL

From Page 1

which is a collaborative effort between E-Land Group of Companies (which owns the Kensington Hotel Saipan, Pacific Islands Club, and Coral Ocean Point), the Marianas Visitor's Authority, and the CNMI administration, remains "pending."

Saipan Tribune learned that the travel bubble program has yet to be advertised in South Korea, which means no participants have been confirmed for the program yet and there still is no set date for when the travel bubble will commence in the CNMI.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain

comments from MVA managing director Priscilla Iakopo and MVA board chair Gloria Cavanagh yesterday but both have yet to respond as of press time.

A travel bubble is an exclusive arrangement between two jurisdictions that will allow that relatively easier exchange of travelers between the two.

In a statement from Commonwealth Ports Authority board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, she said that CPA is ready to welcome tourists back. "CPA is as ready as we can be to welcome the slow reopening of the travel industry. I know that people are leery about the plans and understandably so given

the serious health risks. There has been a great deal of planning and work put in by the Governor's Office, the COVID-19 Task Force, the Economic Task Force and industry partners to create a travel bubble that would allow for the resumption of tourism activity, balancing the need to revitalize the economy and keeping our community safe," she said.

King-Hinds said that the travel bubble plan, as described to CPA, does not deviate from existing safeguards that are already in place and in practice with regards to testing requirements, which include a pre-departure test from place of original embarkation and mandatory testing

on the fifth day after arrival.

Back in December, the MVA board unanimously approved E-Land Group of Companies' proposed plan to carry out the travel bubble in the CNMI with the first batch of tourists was expected to arrive on Jan. 8 via a charter flight.

The health protocols for travel bubble passengers were revised to add another layer, so all arrivals would be subjected to three layers of screening: As soon as they arrive, passengers with the travel bubble must show proof of a negative PCR test 72 hours

prior to arriving on Saipan. The passengers will then take another test upon arrival and one more test five days after.

Once they arrive, the passengers will be immediately brought to Pacific Islands Club Saipan where they will be quarantined for five days. There, they will be able to use the facilities. They will then be transported to Kensington after the fifth day testing comes out negative for everyone aboard the flight.

The CNMI closed its borders to international tourists back in March.

ELECTION

From Page 1

The nation's elected representatives scrambled to crouch under desks and don gas masks, while police futilely tried to barricade the building, one of the most jarring scenes ever to unfold in a seat of American political power. A woman was shot and killed inside the Capitol, and Washington's mayor instituted an evening curfew in an attempt to contain the violence.

The rioters were egged on by Trump, who has spent weeks falsely attacking the integrity of the election and had urged his supporters to descend on Washington to protest Congress' formal approval of Biden's victory. Some Republican lawmakers were in the midst of raising objections to the results on his behalf when the proceedings were abruptly halted by the mob.

Together, the protests and the GOP election objections amounted to an almost unthinkable challenge to American democracy and exposed the depths of the divisions that have coursed through the country during Trump's four years in office. Though the efforts to block Biden from being sworn in on Jan. 20 were sure to fail, the support Trump has received for his efforts to overturn the election results have badly strained the nation's democratic guardrails.

Congress reconvened in the evening, lawmakers decrying the protests that defaced the Capitol and vowing to finish confirming the Electoral College vote for Biden's election, even if it took all night.

RELATED NEWS

- Biden urges restoring decency after 'assault' on democracy. **PAGE 14**
- World leaders are appalled by storming of US Capitol. **PAGE 16**
- Media captures unprecedented storming of US Capitol. **PAGE 19**

Vice President Mike Pence, reopening the Senate, directly addressed the demonstrators: "You did not win."

Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said the "failed insurrection" underscored lawmakers' duty to confirm the vote. Democratic House Speaker Nancy Pelosi said Congress would show the world "what America is made of" by finishing the count.

Punctuating their resolve, both the House and Senate soundly defeated the first objection, to election results from Arizona that had been raised by Sen. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, and Rep. Paul Gosar, R-Ariz. Still, most House Republicans had voted for it. Proceedings pushed into the night.

The president gave his supporters a boost into action Wednesday morning at a rally outside the White House, where he urged them to march to the Capitol. He spent much of the afternoon in his private dining room off the Oval Office watching scenes of the violence on television. At the urging of his staff, he reluctantly issued a pair of tweets and a taped video telling his supporters it was time to "go home in peace"—yet he still said he backed their cause.

Hours later, Twitter for the first time time locked Trump's account, demanded that he remove tweets excusing violence and threatened "permanent suspension."

A somber President-elect Biden, two weeks away from being inaugurated, said American democracy was "under unprecedented assault," a sentiment echoed by many in Congress, including some Republicans. Former President George W. Bush said he watched the events in "disbelief and dismay."

The domed Capitol building has for centuries been the scene of protests and occasional violence. But Wednesday's events were particularly astounding both because they unfolded at least initially with the implicit blessing of the president and because of the underlying goal of overturning the results of a free and fair presidential election.

Tensions were already running high when lawmakers gathered early Wednesday afternoon for the constitutionally mandated counting of the Electoral College results, in which Biden defeated Trump, 306-232. Despite pleas from Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, more than 150 GOP lawmakers planned to support objections to some of the results, though lacking evidence of fraud or wrongdoing in the election.

Trump spent the lead-up to the proceedings publicly hectoring Pence, who had a largely ceremonial role, to aid the effort to throw out the results. He tweeted: "Do it Mike, this is a time for extreme courage!"

CONGRESS

From Page 1

hours Wednesday running rampant through the Capitol. A woman was fatally shot, windows were bashed and the mob forced shaken lawmakers and aides to flee the building, shielded by Capitol Police.

The rampage began shortly after President Donald Trump repeated

his unfounded claims of election fraud to thousands of rallying demonstrators he'd invited to Washington. Many then surged to the Capitol after he incited them to go there as lawmakers debated the electoral votes.

More than six hours after the violence erupted, lawmakers resumed their session.

Thirteen Republican senators and dozens of GOP representa-

tives had planned to force debate and votes on perhaps six different states' votes.

The assault on the Capitol made some Republicans squeamish about trying to overturn Biden's win, and challenges were lodged only against Arizona and Pennsylvania. Both efforts lost overwhelmingly.

Biden defeated Trump by 306-232 electoral votes and will be inaugurated Jan. 20.

TORRES

From Page 1

nation's capital unfolded yesterday.

"I join elected leaders from around the country in denouncing the violent protests in the U.S. Capitol earlier today. Just like many of us, I was disappointed and saddened to see our nation's senators and representatives threatened and law enforcement officials overwhelmed by this unprecedented act in our capital," Torres said in a statement.

He said a peaceful transfer of power is one of the hallmarks of a great republic. "Today's lawless and violent attempts to disrupt the certification of the electoral college was an affront to our American democracy. At a time when democracy has shown its fragility, I am thankful that the CNMI, as a young democracy, has maintained positive civil discourse in order to progress together as one island community."

He also appealed to all Americans to unite despite their differences. "Whatever our political, religious, or other philosophical beliefs may be, whatever our race, creed, or background may be, we are all Americans. We may have different ideas about how we might strengthen and improve our nation, but we must all be able to agree that we believe and support the ideals of democracy. Together in this spirit, we renew our commitment to collectively work together to form a more perfect union."

The CNMI's delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, meanwhile, said he's OK and was going home when the mob descended and breached the Capitol building in Washington, D.C.

Sablan, who caucuses with the

Democratic Party, said he was on his lunch break when thousands of Trump supporters stormed U.S. Congress in the middle of the joint session of the U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate to certify the former vice president's win in the November elections.

In an early morning phone call to *Saipan Tribune*, Sablan said he is "fine" after leaving the joint session for lunch, saying he took a break because he knew the debate on counting electoral votes would take hours. When he did reach his apartment, the already surreal day became more bizarre when a bomb threat prevented him from entering his home.

He said he lives close to where the Democratic National Committee building is located and that's probably where the bomb threat was. Sablan was sworn in for his seventh term last Monday as the 117th U.S. Congress was inaugurated.

Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero also issued a statement about yesterday's events in Washington, D.C., and encouraged everyone to continue to trust in American democracy. (*See Page 11*)

Guam Sen. James C. Moylan, a Republican, said the actions that took place in the nation's capital yesterday were unacceptable, and those who have destroyed property or have hurt others should be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

"Their actions do not represent the principles of democracy or are symbolic of peaceful protests. Let us pray for those who were and continue to be in harm's way so that they can safely get home to their families. This includes both those who work within the halls of Congress, as well as members of the U.S. Capitol Police."

NMTI

From Page 3

any and all liability and debt" for the upcoming board of trustees.

"When the board of trustees assume their governance authority under the new public government technical institute, they [will] start with a clean slate, zero debts, zero liability, and so in upholding our fiduciary

trust and responsibility, we must dispose of current liabilities and the debt," said Gonzales.

According to McPhetres because NMTI hasn't transitioned to a government board and is currently a private board, the board of directors can make their decision based on what's best for the institute, which is another reason why they went ahead and opened their doors last Jan. 4.

NMC gets a favorable audit opinion for 13th consecutive year

FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An independent audit has given the Northern Marianas College a favorable audit opinion on its financial statements, although it also found some deficiencies such as non-compliance with NMC's travel and payroll procedures. Still, the auditor considers NMC a "low risk" auditee.

This is the 13th consecutive year that NMC received a favorable audit opinion—an unqualified opinion—on its financial statements.

The auditor—Burger, Comer, and Magliari, which was hired by the Office of the Public Auditor to audit NMC's financial statements for the year ended Sept. 30, 2019—identified no material weaknesses and no questioned costs from prior year audits.

NMC interim president Frankie Eliptico said yesterday that they remain committed to ensuring that NMC's financial management processes and procedures are adhered to.

"I commend our team at the Finance Office and other departments for their diligence," Eliptico said.

As a "low risk" auditee, NMC said this designation means less administrative burden for the institution in applying for and administering grants, fewer audit requirements, and higher confidence in the institution by federal agencies and the community.

Eliptico is happy with the auditor's unqualified opinion on its financial statements. An unqualified opinion means that the financial statements present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of NMC, and conform with accounting principles accepted in the United States.

According to NMC chief financial officer David Attao, the independent auditor gave recommendations to help improve NMC's finance and procurement procedures and that NMC is committed to and has taken appropriate measures for continuous improvement.

The auditor reviewed NMC's financial position as of Sept. 30, 2019 and 2018.

In their audit report dated

Dec. 24, 2020, BCM stated that in their opinion, the schedule of expenditures of federal awards is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

BCM said they did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that they consider to be material weaknesses, but they, however, did identify certain deficiencies in internal control that they consider to be significant deficiencies.

For instance, travel reports should be submitted within 10 days after travel is completed. BCM said that four of 90 items tested, or 4% of the sample, showed that the trip report was submitted late.

BCM recommended that in order to ensure that the travel transactions comply with travel policies and procedures, NMC should consider imposing penalties for failing to submit trip reports on time.

In another instance, where the pay rate paid to an employee should match the latest employment contract or approved notice of personnel action, three of 90 items tested, or 3% of the samples selected for testing, showed that employees were paid at a rate higher than what is stated on their contract, BCM said. The auditor said the cause is that the most recent pay rate was not verified by NMC staff who was preparing the payroll. BCM said there is a possibility that incorrect salary is being paid to employees and that this could overstate NMC's expenses. BCM recommends that in order to properly pay employees, the person in charge of payroll should secure a copy of the contract and personnel action forms and verify the rate before entering it in the system.

On another criteria, the auditor said, personnel action form must be reviewed and approved prior to employment.

BCM said that for 52 of 90 items tested, or 58% of the sample, they noted that the personnel action forms were signed after the effective date. BCM said the cause cited was that there was not enough time for review and approval of the personnel action form by the authorized personnel. With

this situation, BCM said, the employee is already working without proper approval from authorized personnel. BCM recommends that enough time to process employment documents should be given to achieve proper documentation and approvals.

On another criteria, BCM said employment contract must be reviewed and approved prior to employment. The auditor said for 45 of 90 items tested, or 50% of the sample, they noted that employment contract was signed after the effective date. BCM said NMC did not comply with their payroll internal

control requirements. With this situation, the auditor said, the employee is already working without proper approval from authorized personnel. BCM recommends that ample time to process employment documents should be given to achieve proper documentation and approvals.

The last criteria is that personnel action form must be reviewed and approved prior to employment.

Auditor said for 103 of 120 items tested, or 86% of the sample, they noted that personnel action form was signed after the effective date. BCM

said the cause was that there was not enough time for review and approval of the personnel action form by the authorized personnel. This meant the employee is already working without proper approval from authorized personnel. BCM recommends that ample time to process employment documents should be given to achieve proper documentation and approvals.

According to NMC, its total assets as of Sept. 30, 2019, amounted to \$27,721,401, a \$1,117,543 or 4.2% increase from \$26,603,858 as of Sept. 30, 2018.

Cash decreased by \$2,935,905 in fiscal year 2019 as NMC absorbed person-

nel and other costs due to the devastating effects of Super Typhoon Yutu on the college's physical campus and the subsequent economic effects of Yutu on the entire CNMI.

NMC's total liabilities increased by \$30,715 or 0.09% due to the increase in accrued payables in salaries and benefits as for recovery efforts as a result of Yutu.

NMC's net position increased by \$819,781 or 3.58% during fiscal year 2019.

NMC reported that Yutu's devastation in October 2018, resulted to NMC losing 37 out of 39 classrooms, which translate to total damage estimated at over \$20 million.



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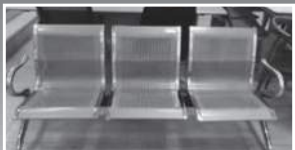
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Board Vacancy Announcement

CNMI residents are invited to express their interest in serving as a Board member for the Northern Marianas Humanities Council (Council). The Council is a non-profit, private corporation affiliated with the National Endowment for the Humanities whose mission is to navigate and explore the human experiences of the indigenous and diverse peoples of the Commonwealth by enriching their lives through research, dialogue, programs, and publications.

The Council's Board is comprised of thirteen volunteer members who serve three-year terms. The Council strives to maintain a board that reflects a broad cross section of our CNMI community. The ideal candidate will have a strong desire to promote the Council's mission, programs, and activities and to actively participate in fundraising activities. Board responsibilities include but are not limited to:

- Attending regular Council meetings four times annually;
- Raising funds for Council programs;
- Recruiting community partners;
- Promoting awareness about the Council's mission and its programs in the community;
- Attending Council programs and activities;
- Participating in working committee meetings;
- Evaluating Council programs and activities;
- Reviewing grant applications;
- Providing input about the humanities from various community members, and
- Attending conferences, workshops and other meetings on behalf of the Council.

Applicants are invited to submit their letters of interest and resumes to Robert T. Torres, Chair, Northern Marianas Humanities Council at Post Office Box 506437 Saipan, MP 96950, delivered to the Council's office located in the Springs Plaza Building in Gualo Rai, Saipan, or via email to: info@nmhcouncil.org. For additional information, please contact the Council's Executive Director, Leo Pangelinan, at telephone 235-4785 or visit the Council's website at www.nmhcouncil.org.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Office of the Executive Director



INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-21-007

FINA SISU WATERLINE REPLACEMENT (W16-051)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Fina Sisu Waterline Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The project consists, in general installation of a new main waterline and lateral service line; connection to the existing waterline; relocation of water meters from private property to right-of-way, installation of gate valve assembly, flush hydrants, fire hydrants, air release valves, existing laterals service tap relocation to new main waterline, restoration of existing asphalt concrete road, restoration of existing concrete slab on grade; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar days** from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **December 28, 2020 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-21-007s, Fina Sisu Water Line Replacement", to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 14, 2021**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

Bids shall be accompanied by a bid guarantee of not less than fifteen percent (15%) of the amount of the bid. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

This Invitation for Bids does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of bids in anticipation of a contract. Bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 4, 2021** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Dennis Formalejo, CUC Water/Wastewater Engineer via email dennis.formalejo@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie L. Sablan, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any non-material imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

AllStar Sporting Goods now an NMC ProaPerks Partner



AllStar Sporting Goods is now a proud NMC ProaPerks partner. All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now get a 10% discount on regularly priced items.

AllStar Sporting Goods is the latest company to sign on as a Northern Marianas College ProaPerks Partner, joining many other businesses and organizations that provide exclusive discounts and benefits for Northern Marianas College students, employees, and alumni.

All card-carrying members of the NMC ProaPerks program can now get a 10% discount on AllStar Sporting Goods purchases.

Other ProaPerks partners are 153 Restaurant, 4EVER CNMI, Alamo Car Rental, Athlete's Foot, Boarderline, Bubba Gump, Caravan of Food, Docomo Pacific, Dollar Days (Garapan), Enterprise Car Rental, Ete Cafe, Fishing Tackle and Sporting Goods, Fork and Spoon, Garapan Restaurant, Great Harvest, Healing Stones Spa, Ice Island

Coffee & Ice Deserts, Ki-ki's, Kevin's Cafe, National Car Rental, Natural Nail & Spa, NMC Bookstore, Latte Built, Salty's, Saipan Computer Services, Surf Club, Shirley's Coffee Shop, Tribe Marianas, Triple J Motors, The Pacific Supply, and Pena House Boutique.

NMC is in the introductory phase of rolling out the ProaPerks to alumni, students, and employees. For more information, visit marianas.edu/proaperks.

Companies and other interested organizations who would like to become part of the ProaPerks program and take advantage of the buying power of thousands of individuals that include NMC alumni, students, and employees, can find more information by emailing proaperks@marianas.edu. (PR)

Federal financial aid for NMC's spring semester

Students who are looking to access federal financial aid for the Northern Marianas College's spring 2021 semester can still file a 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid or FAFSA. Students should submit a FAFSA before the spring semester starts on Jan. 19, 2021.

Qualified students can receive up to \$3,173 in federal financial aid for the spring 2021 semester. The Federal Financial Aid program is administered by the U.S. Department of Education. Through the program's various types of

grants, loans, and scholarships, the Federal Financial Aid program is the largest financial aid provider in the U.S.

The FAFSA is available online at fafsa.ed.gov and can also be completed by using the myStudentAid smartphone app available for iOS and Android. NMC's school code is 015746.

To verify eligibility for Pell Grants, students can contact the NMC Financial Aid Office through email at fao@marianas.edu or call 237-6791. The NMC Financial Aid Office is also open from Monday to Friday, 9am – 4pm. (PR)

PVC CLEAR PENCIL CASE  \$1.99	COSMETIC BRUSH SET 3 PC  \$4.99	COSMETIC BAG LEOPARD PRINT ASST  \$4.99	ILS SLIM FAN  \$7.99	BALL PEN DOLPHIN W/I LOVE SPN  \$4.99	ANELLO BACKPACK S0131  \$29.99
BIG SAVINGS	VINYL LACE TABLECLOTH 60x90  \$5.99	TABLECOVER VINYL ASST  \$3.99	SHOWER CURTAIN W/HOOKS 70x72  \$3.99	BATH TOWEL BY SAFDIE  \$6.99	MENS TWIL PANTS ASSORTED  \$11.99
	FLIP FLOPS ASST  99¢	BRACELET FIMO FLOWER W/COLOR BEA  99¢	CUBIC ZIRCONIA EARRINGS  \$1.99	SWIVEL BOTTLE/NIPPLE BRUSH  99¢	LIL MIMOS 3COMP FORMULA CONTANER  \$2.99



JOETEN 2021 NEW YEAR SALE

Saturday, January 09 to Monday, January 11, 2021

US CHICKEN LEG QUARTERS 20#  \$10.99	HOFFY DELITE BACON 12oz  \$2.99	BAR-S CHUCKWAGON HOTDOGS 1#  \$1.29	NEW ZEALAND 1/2 SHELLS MUSSELS 2# BOX  \$10.99	ACE OF DIAMONDS TUNA 7oz  \$1.49 ea.
DIAMOND G CALROSE RICE 50#  \$29.99	ORIGINAL SPRINGS WATER 24/350ml  \$6.00/cs.	TAO VODKA 750ml  \$9.99 ea.	JOETEN HAND SANITIZER 80% ALC 100ml FLIP TOP  99¢ ea.	JOETEN BUTANE GAS 4pk  \$2.99

GROCERY/MARKET ITEMS

U.S. EGGS X-LARGE WH 1DZ/TRY  \$1.99	GENERAL M COOKIE CRISPS 10.6oz GENERAL M LUCKY CHRMS FRTY 21.2z  \$4.99 ea.	WHITE CASTLE LCW 300g (ASSTD FLAVOR)  \$2.59 ea.	TESSA TOILET PAPER 2PLY PER ROLL  59¢	SPRINGFIELD OIL VEGETABLE 1GAL  \$8.99 ea.
BEEF GROUND 75% 2LBS  \$5.99	BEEF PATTIES BAG 3LB  \$11.99	N.Z. LAMB SHOULDER BNLS RWT /LB  \$8.49 /lb.	N.Z. LAMB FRNCHD RCK B/I RWT /LB  \$12.99 /lb.	OYSTERS NZ 1/2 SHELL - 1 DOZEN  \$12.99
BEYOND MEAT PLANT BASED BRGR 8z  \$6.99				

Joeten Shopping Center

P.O. Box 500137 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. 234-6446/48 • Fax. 234-5876
Visit our 4-Branches: Joeten Susupe, Garapan, Dandan and Kagman

WE WELCOME FOOD STAMPS.
WE RESERVE THE RIGHT TO LIMIT QUANTITIES

DISCLAIMER: PHOTOS MAY VARY FROM ACTUAL PRODUCTS.
PRICES MAY CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



THE MAN ON THE HILL

A couple in their car gives Zhang Shan Guo, 43, some food and water after seeing him at the same spot every morning whenever they pass by and noticed that he would stand there all day. Zhang, who describes himself as a Chinese refugee, says he has no work, no food, no shelter, and no money to buy a plane ticket so he could go home, and is asking for help to scrape together the funds he needs so he can leave. He has been going to the same spot for seven days now and stays until it gets dark every single day and relies on the compassion of passing motorists who give him food, water, and some cash.

NEIL FAMA



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY



Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
2nd Floor Arrival Bldg.
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (1-670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com •
Website: www.cpa.gov.mp



NOTICE OF EMERGENCY MEETING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) Board of Directors hereby gives notice that a special emergency meeting is being called on **Thursday, January 30, 2020, at 9:00a.m.** in the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Classroom at the Airport Fire Station located at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport on the island of Saipan. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda
4. Adoption of Minutes (December 20, 2019)

II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)

III. SPECIAL MEETING ITEM:

1. CNMI Governor's Emergency Declaration re: Coronavirus Outbreak

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION (if needed)

V. MISCELLANEOUS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

VI. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

KIMBERLYN KING-HINDS
Chairwoman, Board of Directors

January 29, 2020

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

BECQ closures next week

The Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality would like to inform the public that the BECQ office will be closed on Jan. 14 (Thursday) and Jan. 15 (Friday), 2021 for a Professional Development Workshop.

In observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the office will remain closed through Monday, Jan. 18,

LOOKING FOR:

CIVIL ENGINEER (1)

AT LEAST MINIMUM OF 5 YEARS EXPERIENCE. GREEN CARD OR US CITIZEN PREFERRED. IF INTERESTED, PLEASE CALL SCOTT MALIN AT 788-3381 OR EMAIL Liliabaptista21@yahoo.com

2021. Office hours will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021. Note that BECQ's Division of Coastal Resources Management continues to operate on an adjusted schedule (Monday: closed; Tuesday– Friday: 9am to 3pm). (PR)

Zoning Office announces new hours of operation

Effective Monday, Jan. 11, 2021, there will be a slight change in the daily operation hours of the Common-

wealth Zoning Office. Their new business hours are as follows:

- Monday – Thursday
 - ❖ 7:30am–12pm: Window open
 - ❖ 12pm–1pm: Closed
 - ❖ 1pm–4:30pm: Window open
- Friday – Closed for processing

For inquiries or for more information contact the Commonwealth Zoning Office at (670) 234-9661 or via email at geri.delacruz@cnmizoning.com. (PR)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the general public that Mr. Roberto "Rob" Lusito is no longer connected with Sagittarius Corporation dba as Sagittarius General Construction effective January 1, 2021.

Any business transaction made by him on the company's behalf will not be honored by the aforesaid Company. Please report any such unauthorized transaction to our contact numbers at (670) 235-4796 / 785-4796 or email us at sagittarius1197@gmail.com.



Public warned of beach hazards until tonight

The public is being warned of a high rip current risk and men-o-war jellyfish until tonight.

Based on the information received from the National Weather Service in Guam and compiled at the CNMI Emergency Operations Center State Warning Point, Indo-Pacific men-o-war jellyfish are present along northeast, east, and southeast facing reefs, while dangerous rip currents are present along east facing reefs through Friday night.

Contact with Indo-Pacific men-o-war, alive or dead, can cause extreme pain. Residents of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are urged to stay out of the water, especially along northeast, east, and southeast facing beaches and reef lines. If men-o-war are not found along the beach, they could still be out in the water. Avoid making contact with men-o-war that have washed up on beaches, especially when bubbles can be seen. If stung, take out the tentacles, wash the wound with vinegar and then treat with heat pack.

If caught in a rip current, relax and float. Don't swim against the current. If able, swim in a direction following the shoreline. If unable to escape, face the shore and call or wave for help. (PR)

Free webinars on federal contracting

The Guam Procurement Technical Assistance Center is offering free live webinars in January. Webinars run from 10am to 11:30am and will be conducted via Zoom. Links to the live webinar and the webinar evaluation will be emailed to all registered attendees 15 minutes before the start of the webinar.

■ Jan. 14 – DUNS/SAM

– To sell your product or service to the Federal government, you need to get a DUNS number and register in SAM. These registrations pose unique challenges to Guam/CNMI based businesses. Tips and solutions for these challenges will be discussed.

■ Jan. 21 – Federal Contract Opportunities – Beta. sam.gov is the portal for Federal Contract Opportunities. The Guam PTAC will show you how to setup an account and how to use the search filters to ensure you do not miss any opportunities.

■ Jan. 28/21 – Marketing to the Federal Government – The government buys products and services differently than the private sector. The Guam PTAC will discuss marketing strategies, essential documents, and how to get your company on "the list."

Register on our website, <http://guamptac.com/news-and-events.php>. (PR)



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES (RAES) CUC-RAES-21-008

CONSULTANT FOR INTEGRATED RESOURCE AND OTHER UTILITY PLANNING & OTHER SERVICES

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals for a Consultant (Project Engineer) from qualified Architectural and Engineering (A&E) firms for Professional Services for the development of studies and the ultimate expansion of Power Plant #1 and Design, Build and Construction of a New Power Plant in Lower Base on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Proposers for this RAES must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Scope of Work (SOW) of the RAES may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$200.00 (non-refundable) for one RAES package set.

One (1) Non-Priced Proposal & One (1) Priced Proposal marked "CUC-RAES-21-008, CONSULTANT FOR INTEGRATED RESOURCE AND OTHER UTILITY PLANNING & OTHER SERVICES" must be submitted via email to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Senior Purchasing Technician via email address marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on February 11, 2021. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.**

All proposers are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the proposers due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Consultant's preparation of a proposal under the contract. The RAES does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the statement of qualifications under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Consultants are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This RAES and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

The selection of an A&E firm for the award of a contract will be by a committee appointed by the CUC Executive Director for this purpose, which will evaluate responses to this solicitation. Selection shall be made in accordance with CUC Procurement Regulations §50-50-305 regarding Architectural and Engineering Services. Discussions shall be conducted with at least 3 of the responding firms (or less if fewer than five firms respond) regarding the contract requirements and technical approach and selection made therefrom. Based on the scoring criteria outlined herein, only the three most highly qualified firms shall be invited to discuss further the firm's qualifications and project approach outlined in the scope of work.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project will be entertained only for pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on January 22, 2021** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email-manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Technician, Senior-via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the proposal in the best interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator



COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmports.com

ARFF TRAINING FACILITY TYPHOON DAMAGES GENERAL REPAIRS/REPLACEMENT Project No. CPA-SA-001-19

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting proposals for general repairs and/or replacement of typhoon damages sustained by Super Typhoon Yutu at the ARFF Training Facility (ARFFTF) at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport as per this Scope of Work (SOW) and associated Contract Documents, meeting all current federal, state and local government agencies' rules and regulations.

The Scope of Work (SOW) outlining the project's general requirements may be picked up at the CPA Administration Office at no cost. Project approach and costs must be within the parameters of the established SOW. Any deviation from the SOW, a proposal based on reduced SOW or a proposal that exceeded what is required by the SOW, may be grounds for immediate disqualification of the offeror's proposal package.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on **Friday, January 15, 2021 at 10:00 am** at the ARFF Training Facility at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport to discuss the project scope of work in detail. Attendance to the pre-proposal conference is **mandatory**. A site inspection will immediately follow the pre-proposal conference. Additional site visits after the pre-proposal conference may be coordinated with CPA's Project Manager, Mr. Andrew Ellison, at telephone number 671-689-1262 or 670-288-0907 or Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at 670-237-6519, but only until January 22, 2021.

Questions shall be submitted in writing to Ms. Prater, via hand delivery to CPA, or via email to wprater@cnmports.com by no later than 5:00 p.m., **Friday, January 22, 2021**. Responses to questions or requests for information will be provided to all proposers who attend the mandatory pre-proposal conference.

Proposers shall submit one (1) original and four (4) copies of the proposals, sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: **"Proposal for General Construction Repairs/Replacement for SIA ARFF Training Facility, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, CPA-SA-001-19"**. Proposals must be submitted by no later than **3:00 P.M. CHST, FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021**, to the Office of the Executive Director at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: December 17, 2020

Court imposes \$5K bail on man who allegedly harassed woman

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Superior Court has imposed a \$5,000 cash bail on a man who allegedly harassed a woman via text.

Superior Court Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho imposed a \$5,000 cash bail on Moses Babauta Untalan, 27, who was arrested for allegedly harassing his ex-girlfriend and resisting arrest.

Untalan was charged with assault, criminal trespass, disturbing the peace, and resisting arrest. Camacho remanded Untalan to the custody of the Department of Corrections

and ordered the him to return to court on Jan. 12 for arraignment. Untalan was represented by assistant public defender Emily Thompson during his bail hearing, while assistant at-

torney general Chester Hinds appeared for the government. According to court documents, the victim called the Tinian Department of Public Safety on Dec. 28 at 9:55pm and asked for police assistance, saying her ex-boyfriend had been harassing her through text messages for days and she was scared of what he might do. The next day, the victim called Tinian DPS again at 7:35am, this time saying that Untalan was outside her house. When the police arrived, officers found Untalan parked in the middle of the road and shouting at the victim. Police advised Untalan to stay away from the residence but he said, “If you’re going to arrest me you need to call the whole SWAT

team to take me down.” A few minutes later, police were again dispatched to the residence of the complainant who called to say that Untalan was back. Upon arrival, police officers saw Untalan exit his vehicle and ran toward the house, shouting while banging and punching the windows.

Lions Club offers Fitbeat classes

By **JUSTINE NAUTA**
justine_nauta@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Saipan Lions Club is teaming up with first lady Diann T. Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios’ wife, Wella Palacios, to offer Fitbeat classes in what will be called the Saipan Fitbeat Lions Club, with Vince Cabrera as charter president. According to club organizer Ladyvir Canape, Torres

and Palacios will be offering the Fitbeat classes. “Their advocacy...is about health and wellness,” said Canape. The group will be at the Garapan Central Park Roundhouse from Monday to Saturday, from 5:30pm to 6:15pm, for Core Plus, a core strengthening class, and 6:30pm to 7:30pm for Zumba/Aero dance class. The sessions are free to the public “as their way of giving back to the community,” said

Canape. With this effort, the Lions Club decided to make their group official and become the 8th Lions Club of Region 2 District 204 and its “guiding lions” are Martha Badelles and Canape. “Lions clubs are ready to help, they are making a difference around the world. That’s because whenever Lions clubs get together, problems get smaller and communities get better,” said Canape. The

international club has 48,000 clubs and 1.4 million members in over 200 countries, making Lions Club International the world’s largest service organization. To learn more about the Lions clubs, check their website at www.lionsclubs.org or contact a Lion member. “Their 1.4 million members are dedicated to bettering the quality of life for the handicapped, the poor, the sick, and the aged. The motto of Lions Clubs International is ‘We serve,’” said Canape.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21-016

Opening Date: December 11, 2020
Closing Date: Until Filled

POSITION TITLE:	Technical Manager for Oil
DEPARTMENT:	Petroleum Compliance Office
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$56,439.00 to \$96,657.60 per annum, Exempt
CONTRACT:	Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) is seeking for a qualified Technical Manager for Oil (“TMO”). CUC is a public utility corporation located on the island of Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)—a United States territory in the northwestern Pacific Ocean.

Reporting directly to CUC’s Executive Director (ED) or designee, Technical Manager for Oil (TMO) fills a position required by the Stipulated Order (SO) of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case No. CV 08-0051.

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director or his/her designee.

Duties:

- He/she is responsible for Environmental, Health, Safety, and Security compliance at the CUC facilities.
- The Technical Manager for Oil will have authority to make decisions for management and operations of the oil related items required by the Stipulated Order and will be primarily responsible for assisting the Executive Director in overseeing all environmental assessment and cleanup projects, all oil spill prevention initiatives, preparedness and response operations and compliance activities and deliverables, on a daily basis as required by the Stipulated Order.
- The TMO shall be the person responsible for maintaining regular contact with staff and contractors regarding Section 311CWA compliance issues and will support the Executive Director in management and operations decisions for the oil related items required by the Stipulated Order.
- Supervises staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations.
- The Technical Manager for Oil further develops and executes programs to ensure effective identification and management of the Environmental, Health, Safety, and Security risks posed by CUC’s Operations and businesses, as well as seeking opportunities to deliver both operational integrity and wider benefits to CUC via sustainability initiatives.
- The post holder is expected to enhance the management of risk in the CUC business stream and working with the Management team, use appropriate leadership processes and behaviors to mitigate risk.
- The role will encompass the implementation of EHSS programs including training, raising awareness, managing audits, reporting CUC EHSS compliance, providing technical expertise and support to CUC Management team as required.
- The TMO will be in-charge of training, enforcement and in operational issues having to do with environmental, health, safety, and security compliance.
- Other duties of a similar nature or level as assigned or required.

Minimum Requirements:
Successful candidates for CUC’s Technical Manager for Oil must have the following:

Education: Completion of four (4) years of college, or its equivalent, with major work in engineering, science, industrial hygiene, or other field related to work with project management and/or environmental compliance, and one (1) to three (3) years of experience with oil spill prevention, preparedness and response, environmental assessment, construction oversight or power plant operations. Applicant must have an exceptional knowledge of U.S. Environmental laws and regulations pertaining to oil; knowledge and understanding of the contracting process. Good skills and experience working with regulators such as the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and U.S. Coast Guard.

In addition the Technical Manager for Oil must demonstrate the following: Proven management and communication skills, demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff in the realm of health, safety, security and environmental awareness; experience with managing environmental and/or construction projects during periods of planning, design and construction. Further, the TMO should have experience with the following: oil, oily water, water sampling and testing, International Air Transport Association (IATA) certified to ship petroleum samples, oil storage, use, transportation and disposal; assessment and cleanup of contaminated sites; environmental compliance; development of statement of work, oversight of contractors; staff training and development; and federal oil spill prevention, preparedness and response requirements. Further the TMO shall have the experience in conducting various training seminars, and recordkeeping for training and deferral compliance.

Knowledge of: Leadership principles; Supervisory principles; Strategic planning principles; Budgetary principles; Project management principles; Applicable laws, rules and regulations.

Skills in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Preparing and administering budgets; Developing and administering strategic plans; Managing large, complex projects; Giving presentations; Preparing technical reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

Licensing:

- o Valid CNMI Driver’s License with appropriate class.
- o A Water and Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator’s Certification is desired, but not mandatory.

Relocation Expenses:
If hired from outside the CNMI, relocation expenses are negotiable; but they are not to exceed \$5,000.00 for moving to Saipan and not to exceed \$5,000.00 for moving away from Saipan. Receipts will be required for justification. Other conditions may be applicable.

All applicants may be tested and all applicants are subject to pre-employment drug test.

How to Apply: Submit a completed CUC Employment Application, resume, and applicable supporting documents to the CUC Human Resources office located on the 3rd Floor of the Joeten Dandan Building on Saipan, Monday through Friday 7:30 am – 4:30 pm (Except Legal Holidays). Applicants on the island of Tinian and Rota may submit their documents to their respective CUC Administration office. Application, resume and supporting documents can also be e-mailed to: employment.applications@cucgov.org

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

JVA No. 21-017

Opening Date: December 11, 2020
Closing Date: Until Filled

POSITION TITLE:	Deputy Executive Director
DEPARTMENT:	Executive
LOCATION:	Saipan, Northern Marianas Islands, USA
ANNUAL SALARY:	\$120,000.00 to \$135,000.00 per annum, Exempt
CONTRACT:	Contracted
POSITION(S):	One (1)

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (“CUC”) is seeking for a qualified Deputy Executive Director (“DED”). CUC is a public utility corporation located on the island of Saipan in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)—a United States territory in the northwestern Pacific Ocean.

The CNMI is a tropical island consisting of fourteen islands with Saipan, Rota, and Tinian the only islands with a population. In the CNMI you can escape to a place of magnificent beaches and crystal clear aqua waters, and rich history. Saipan offers year-round outdoor activities, world class diving and golfing, international shopping, a range of ethnic restaurants and a cacophony of indigenous and international cultures.

Reporting directly to CUC’s Executive Director (ED) or designee, the Deputy Executive Director (DED) fills a position required by the Stipulated Order (SO) of the United States of America vs. the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, Civil Case No. CV 08-0051.

The incumbent will be under the direct supervision of the Executive Director or his/her designee.

Duties:

- Primarily responsible for overseeing, all drinking water and wastewater operations and compliance activities and deliverables, on a daily basis, as required by the Stipulated Order. Responsible for maintaining regular contact with EPA staff regarding CWA and SDWA compliance issues. Has authority to make decisions for management and operations of the drinking water and wastewater systems.
- Supervises and directs Water & Wastewater lead staff to include: prioritizing and assigning work; conducting performance evaluations; ensuring staff is trained; and, making hiring, termination, and disciplinary recommendations.
- Provides management assistance to the Executive Director to include: coordinating activities between CUC and outside organizations and agencies; researching and preparing recommendations on operational directives; and, preparing and presenting reports.
- Assumes full management responsibility over divisions as delegated by the Executive Director. Plans, directs and coordinates work of divisions through department heads by meeting with management to identify, prioritize and resolve problems.
- Directs and implements maintenance plans; evaluates maintenance programs to ensure maintenance standards are enforced.
- Participates on a variety of boards and committees and attends a wide variety of management meetings.
- Serves as the Executive Director when the Executive Director is out of the CNMI.
- Responsible for short and long-range strategic planning and

Minimum Requirements:
Successful candidates for CUC’s Deputy Executive Director must have the following:

Education: Master’s degree in management, engineering, finance or public administration, or, in the alternative, a bachelor’s degree in engineering and registration as a Professional Engineer pursuant to the National Council of Engineering Examiners standards in either the civil, mechanical, or electrical branch.

Experience: Senior management experience of at least ten (10) years desired in similar wastewater and drinking water utility (combined utility is preferred), with similar or greater capital and operating budgets, capital improvement projects, human resources needs, utility financing issues, operation and maintenance training, and implementation needs.

Must demonstrate: Proven management and communications skills; Demonstrated ability to lead, motivate, and develop staff; Experience with managing major water and wastewater systems during periods of planning, design, and construction; Experience with water and wastewater systems, user fee system development, bond funding, staff training and development, and federal drinking water and wastewater requirements.

Experience with user fee system development and bond funding is desired, but not mandatory.

Knowledge of: Leadership principles; Supervisory principles; Strategic planning principles; Budgetary principles; Project management principles; Applicable laws, rules and regulations.

Skills in: Monitoring and evaluating staff; Prioritizing and assigning work to staff; Preparing and administering budgets; Developing and administering strategic plans; Managing large, complex projects; Giving presentations; Preparing technical reports; Using computers and related software applications; Communication, interpersonal skills as applied to interaction with coworkers, supervisor, the general public, etc. sufficient to exchange or convey information and to receive work direction.

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Opinion

Hafa Adair! Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Trump is responsible for the violent storming of US Capitol

Force edged toward insurrection at the U.S. Capitol building in Washington, D.C., on Wednesday as a mob thousands strong—egged on by President Donald Trump—breached barriers and forced their way into the halls of Congress, sending members and Vice President Mike Pence fleeing to safety and halting the process that would certify Joe Biden as the next president of the United States.

At what point does this get called an attempted coup?

It has often been said that if the United States were to succumb, it would be because of an attack from within, not an assault by terrorists or by a foreign adversary. And indeed, democracy is under actual, physical assault, in the Capitol, by Americans inflamed by the president of the United States, because he rejected the decisions made by voters, states and courts. This display of distrust in American institutions is far beyond what Osama bin Laden or Vladimir Putin could have hoped for. This was their goal: to destabilize and delegitimize.

Earlier, Trump appeared at a rally of his supporters outside the White House and repeated his baseless allegations that he had been cheated out of a second term, urged attendees to march to the Capitol and even said he would join them (he did not).

The ensuing scenes were surreal. Flag-waving, chanting and cursing throngs overwhelmed security barriers and police in riot gear—injuring a number of them—and packed onto the Capitol verandas while other Trump supporters strolled through Statuary Hall and the Rotunda. Many made it into the legislative chambers themselves, reportedly by breaking through locked glass doors at one point, with reports of gunfire and warnings by police to House members to don gas masks. Tear gas swirled through the House side of the Capitol, and the building was placed on lockdown.

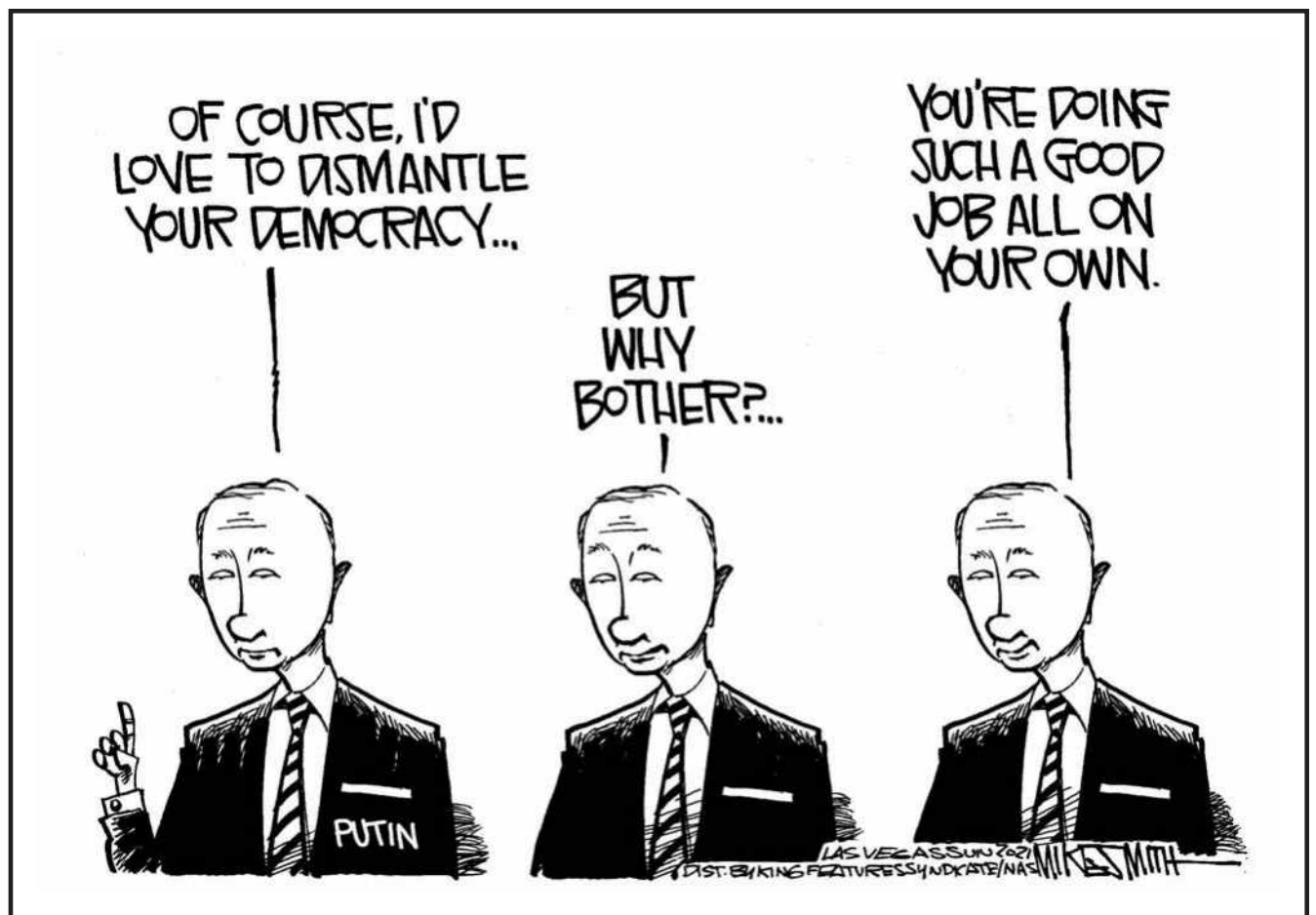
At least one person was shot and critically wounded in the confrontation.

With members of Congress advised to shelter in place and consider ducking under their desks should marauders enter their offices, Trump finally tweeted a lame admonition to his followers: “Please support our Capitol Police and Law Enforcement. They are truly on the side of our Country. Stay peaceful!” Then a half hour later: “I am asking for everyone at the U.S. Capitol to remain peaceful. No violence! Remember, WE are the Party of Law & Order—respect the Law and our great men and women in Blue. Thank you!”

Nothing about storming the Capitol. Nothing about forcing Congress into recess. No demands for retreat by the forces he himself had urged to descend on Washington to protest the certification of the electoral college votes.

(Trump eventually—after the National Guard was called out and after a public statement by Biden condemning the mob attack—posted a video repeating his lies about the election but also urged his supporters to “go home, and go

See TRUMP on Next Page



A warning to Trump from ex-defense secretaries

This week's warning by all 10 living former U.S. defense secretaries that the military must not be used to determine an election is a stunning pushback against President Donald Trump's drive to retain power.

The fact that this disparate group of Democrats and Republicans, including Donald Rumsfeld, Dick Cheney and ex-Trump Pentagon chiefs James Mattis and Mark Esper, felt the need to speak out together illustrates the danger of this moment.

As the 10 made clear in an op-ed for The Washington Post, the threats to the constitution by Trump and his GOP allies in Congress are so grave that no one knows whether he'll try to drag the armed forces into overturning the election.

"As former secretaries of defense ... each of us swore an oath to support and defend the Constitution," the group wrote. "We did not swear it to an individual or party ... Efforts to involve the U.S. armed forces in resolving election disputes would take us into dangerous, unlawful and unconstitutional territory." Indeed.

I asked Eric Edelman, undersecretary of defense in the George W. Bush administration, what exactly prompted the statement.

It began with a conversation between him and Dick Cheney, he said, "and then it just snowballed. We got all 10 within 48 hours over New Year's Eve and Day. Though they may not agree politically on anything, when it comes to the norms and institutions of democracy, they all agree."

Their agreement was based on concern over what once seemed unthinkable. "We were all concerned about Trump's unpredictability, afraid he might do something that would drag the military in. We wanted to reinforce (Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark) Milley's position that the military has no part in elections."

This was especially true, Edelman said, after Trump's disgraced (and pardoned) ex-national security adviser Michael Flynn visited the Oval Office. The visit came right after his outrageous Dec. 17 interview with the pro-Trump Newsmax media, in which Flynn said the president "could take military capabilities and place them in those (swing) states and basically rerun an election." The president no doubt loved the interview.

"It was a whole pattern of behavior" that worried the 10 men, Edelman continued—including rash moves by the new partisan Trump appointees to top Pentagon posts. "Everyone was concerned Trump might invoke the Insurrection Act," which would allow him to mobilize active duty military, using the excuse of street violence by pro-Trump groups that the president is urging to protest the election.

There was also concern the president might provoke an international crisis—perhaps with Iran—to try to retain power.

"We didn't know about the tape at the time of the statement," Edelman said, referring to the tape of Trump's outrageous call to Georgia's secretary of state, demanding that he "find" enough votes to turn the president's defeat into victory. "But it shows

By **TRUDY RUBIN**
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. Readers may write to her at: Philadelphia Inquirer, P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.



how he thinks. He is willing to do anything to stay in office. That justifies concern."

What's so stunning about this group statement is that it takes seriously a possibility that most Americans, myself included, dismissed until now—that Trump might actually try to pull a military coup.

The idea still appears highly dubious. The president only has two weeks left in office, and even his cowardly GOP clique in Congress might desert him. Moreover, the military would no doubt slow walk any such unconstitutional effort until Jan. 20.

Yet, the president's patsies at the Pentagon, including Acting Defense Secretary Christopher Miller, might be willing to issue his orders. "You have a situation where DOD has been pressed by the president to politicize itself," says former Undersecretary of Defense Dov Zakheim. "Trump seems to think DOD is an arm of the Oval Office to defend anything he does. And nobody knows what he might do."

What also inspired this extraordinary statement was the president's unconstitutional attack on the elections and the spinelessness of GOP legislators who abet him. Even more dangerous, the endless stream of lies about election fraud Trump pours forth on Twitter and at rallies, amplified by pro-Trump media (Newsmax, OAN, Fox commentators), has convinced a large part of the country that elections can't be trusted.

Even if he has to be carried out of the White House and can no longer command troops, Trump will no doubt keep spreading his poison, agitating for civil war. But until he's gone—and even after—the number and heft of serious political leaders who challenge his lies is critical. And that number will be vital to helping President-elect Joe Biden get any business done.

So the defense secretaries' statement is truly significant. "It is a historical document, completely unprecedented," says the Brookings Institution's Thomas Wright. "It's a shot across the bow. People will look back and say this is what was necessary. If Trump doesn't succeed, it will be because there was pushback. That is probably why the former secretaries thought they shouldn't wait, should act now."

And should continue to speak out.

We can be outraged, saddened, terrified. But we can't be surprised by what happened in DC

After four years of President Donald Trump's lies, delusions and disrespect for the law, can anyone be surprised that he tried to incite a coup on Wednesday?

Hundreds of Trump supporters, bearing Trump flags and MAGA hats, were whipped up by the criminally irresponsible former reality show star, who appeared outside the White House to inflame the already agitated crowd shortly before Congress was to begin its joint session.

"All of us here today do not want to see our election victory stolen by emboldened radical Democrats," he said. "We will never give up. We will never concede. It will never happen. You don't concede when there's death involved. Our country has had enough. We will not take it anymore."

And with that, the crowd, angry that Congress was about to refute their idol's specious claim of victory in an election he lost fair and square to Joe Biden, set off on their march from the White House to the Capitol.

Upon arrival, they broke through barriers and swarmed the Capitol steps. They climbed up walls. They smashed windows. Some got inside the building, where they provoked an armed standoff with Capitol police, and even breached the Senate's inner sanctum.

The images were shocking and depressing.

This was anarchy and terror, pure and simple, from a group that pretends to belong to the party of "law and order." The idea they were acting out of some sort of patriotic principle is laughable. These deluded Americans didn't just spit on the Constitution, they ground it under their heels.

Trump deserves to be charged with inciting a riot and his cult-

ists all need to face the wrath of the legal system.

I don't blame Trump alone for this embarrassing and shameful end to his presidency. He was abetted in inciting violence by so many of his fellow Republicans, and they all must be held to account. Texas Sen. Ted Cruz is among the guiltiest, having announced that he would challenge the results of an election that has already been investigated, litigated and found repeatedly to have been fair and free of fraud.

I blame Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley for conspiring with Cruz to deprive the American people of their fairly elected new president.

I blame every single Republican on the House Judiciary Committee who listened to accounts of Trump trying to bully and bribe the president of Ukraine and could not find it in their partisan hearts to agree he'd committed an impeachable offense.

I blame every Republican in the Senate—with the exception of Mitt Romney—who voted to keep this odious narcissist in office rather than drop him into the dustbin of history where he belongs.

Who could have heard his taped phone call with Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger and not thought they were listening to a president try to bully an elected official into committing a crime on his behalf?

It is such a relief that the country will now be led by a mature, patriotic man who has the ability to put his country above his own narrow interests, something that is inconceivable to Trump.

Wednesday afternoon, while the Capitol was still on lockdown, Biden reminded us what was really happening, and what Trump has wrought.

"The scenes of chaos at the Capitol do not reflect the true

By ROBIN ABCARIAN

Los Angeles Times



Robin Abcarian is an opinion columnist at the Los Angeles Times.

America," Biden said in a televised address. "This is not who we are. What we are seeing is a small number of extremists dedicated to lawlessness. This is not dissent. It is disorder. It is chaos. It borders on sedition. And it must end. Now."

He, like many other responsible elected officials, called on Trump to go on national television and "demand an end to this siege."

Did Trump heed Biden? Hardly.

After filling his supporters' heads with anger and lies, after provoking them to violence, he posted on Twitter a typically half-hearted, self-indulgent, whiny plea.

"I know your pain," he said. "I know you're hurt. We had an election that was stolen from us ... but we can't play into the hands of these people. We have to have peace. So go home."

He concluded by speaking directly to the violent mob that stormed the Capitol: "We love you. You're very special."

That's the man who has been our president for the last four years. Finally and fully unveiled.

Chaos in Washington begs question: What if crowd who swarmed US Capitol was Black or Muslim?

On CNN Wednesday, as a mob of Trump supporters stampeded through barricades and broke through windows and stormed the U.S. Capitol in a violent insurrection, commentator Van Jones voiced the thoughts crashing around in so many of our minds.

"I have heard people looking at small protests in Portland, Oregon, where people were tear-gassed, beaten, kidnapped, and they said, 'No, no, no. Whatever you do to those protesters is OK because we have to have law and order. We have to have law and order,'" Jones said, even as the chyron below his head reported a woman in critical condition after being shot on Capitol grounds and an armed standoff in the House chamber. (The woman later died.)

Law and order?

"This is rebellion," Jones continued. "It is treason. It is lawlessness. It is unacceptable."

He continued: "I'm calling on all of my conservative friends, my Republican friends to say, 'What would I do if Black Lives Matter dropped 30,000 Black people on the nation's capital and laid siege to the seat of power in the middle of a joint session of Congress and broke in? What would I say if Black Lives Matter did that? If Muslims did it? If Muslims dropped 30,000 Muslims on the seat of government in the middle of a joint session of Congress and ran in there and there was blood on the floor and

tear gas? What would we be saying?"

"If you believe that we are all one people," Jones said, "you don't like the hyphenations, you believe we're all one country. If you believe in law and order, if you're against traitors, if you are for patriotism, there needs to be a uniform denunciation from top to bottom of the Republican Party of what we're seeing."

Republicans did, in significant numbers, condemn the violence and the rioting. Eventually, hours after the chaos kicked off and his own vice president was evacuated from the Senate chamber, President Donald Trump released a video nudging his followers to disperse. "Go home," he said. "We love you. You're very special."

Which was a far cry from his "when the looting starts, the shooting starts" tweet in May when protests erupted in Minneapolis over George Floyd's death.

But apart from the condemnations, aside from the denunciations, a single question loomed large: How were armed insurgents allowed to breach the U.S. Capitol, forcing the evacuation of the United States Congress? How are we seeing photos of a man sitting in Nancy Pelosi's desk, with access to the emails still on her screen? How did it get to that point? And would it have, had the group been made up of people of color?

I sincerely doubt it.

Who can forget that image from June 2, when the D.C. National Guard stood blocking the steps of the Lincoln Memorial during protests after Floyd's death? Who can forget the peace-

'We must be united'

Editor's Note: Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero issued the following statement relative to the riots in Washington, D.C.:

As a society, we are united in our love of democracy and our pride in that for more than two centuries, the American experiment has persevered. We had a great example of democracy in action just yesterday as Georgia elected its first African-American senator.

Our nation's democracy has survived secession, civil war, and the loss of rights over the division of race. Today, our nation experienced another trying moment as a mob attempted to terrorize and prevent the democratic process from moving forward at the U.S. Capitol. The sight of this was disturbing to all of us. But still, the American experiment has persevered. Order and safety is being restored at the Capitol, and the Congress is moving forward to certify the electoral college vote electing Joe Biden and Kamala Harris as our next President and Vice President.

At this moment of profound division, the need to unite as a

By HEIDI STEVENS

Chicago Tribune



Heidi Stevens is a columnist for the Chicago Tribune.

ful demonstrators tear-gassed in the plaza between St. John's Church and Lafayette Park this summer when Trump wanted a photo at the nearby Episcopal church? We've watched Confederate statues receive better protection than the U.S. Capitol building did on Wednesday.

It leaves a terrible taste in the mouth, and all sorts of lingering questions about who we designate a threat in this nation, how their skin color affects that designation and how both affect their ability to carry out dissent.

From where I sat, it looks like the same country that vilifies Black athletes for kneeling and tear-gasses peaceful demonstrators for protesting police violence, allowed a violent white mob to disrupt the peaceful transfer of power, a sacred ritual codified in the U.S. Constitution, and send its freely elected representatives into hiding.

That's not a good look.

TRUMP

From Page 10

home in peace.")

Much has been said about Trump breaking norms as a politician and as a president. But this goes far beyond challenging the status quo or "draining the swamp." The sitting president of the United States, in an effort to undo the will of the American electorate, is complicit in the storming of the U.S. Capitol to halt the peaceful transfer of power.

This is the predictable outcome of the grotesque charade being played not just by Trump but by Sens. Ted Cruz, R-Texas, Josh Hawley, R-Mo., and others who have aligned with Trump's blatantly false assertions of voting fraud. Attacking democratic institutions attacks democracy itself, and what the nation witnessed Wednesday in Washington is the power of the mob to destabilize even the most stable of democracies.

The responsibility for this day of unconscionable attacks by Americans on the heart of our elective system belongs to Trump. But his enablers have much to answer for as well, and much to regret.

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By LOURDES A. LEON GUERRERO






Special to the Saipan Tribune

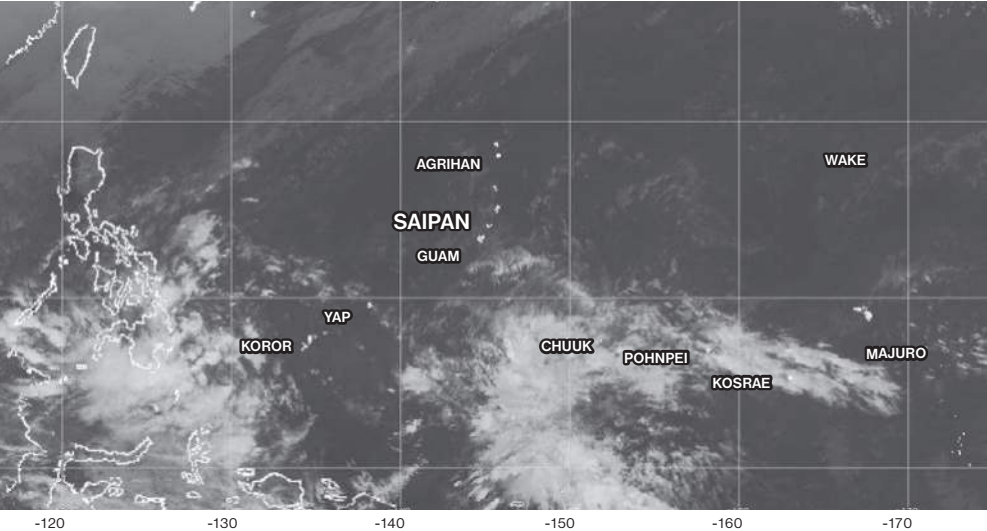


Lou Leon Guerrero is governor of the U.S. territory of Guam.

community and as a nation is more urgent than ever. We need to come together and stand strong for the values we all share as people. I therefore ask all of you to join me in uniting in support of our democracy and in support of our new President, Joe Biden, as he takes on the monumental task of healing the soul of our nation and uniting us all as Americans. God bless America. God bless Guam.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN									
TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY		TUESDAY	
									
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers and thunderstorms. East winds 10 to 15 mph.		Mostly cloudy. Isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.		Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	
86°	77°	86°	77°	86°	77°	87°	77°	87°	77°
YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE									



PICTURE TIME: 8:14 AM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 7, 2021

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Early morning satellite and radar show a few clouds and showers across the Marianas with the heavier concentration of clouds found nearer Tinian and Saipan. Farther east, between the Marianas and Wake Island, a series of weak trade-wind disturbances are seen, evident as patches of increased cloudiness. The larger disturbance is just passing west of 160E and is most notable in the MIMIC TPW product as a plume of increased moisture with PWAT amounts around 2 inches. Latest buoy and altimetry data show seas of 6 to 8 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

- Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.
- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.
- Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.
- Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.
- Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.
- Create a household plan of action, <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html>
- Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

- Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

- Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:
 - Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.
 - Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20

seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

- Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html>

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mp and, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at <http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html> and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	84° / 77°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°	
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	84° / 78°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	84° / 80°	

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Saturday	6:45 AM	6:02 PM
Sunday	6:45 AM	6:03 PM
Monday	6:45 AM	6:03 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:04 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	1:30 AM	1:30 PM	-
Saturday	2:28 AM	2:17 PM	-
Sunday	3:29 AM	3:09 PM	-
Monday	4:32 AM	4:05 PM	-
Tuesday	5:36 AM	5:05 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	71° / 61°	
Beijing	Sunny	27° / 14°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	53° / 44°	
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	81° / 70°	
London	Snow Showers	37° / 27°	
Los Angeles	Sunny	70° / 46°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	86° / 74°	
Melbourne	Sunny	77° / 57°	
Miami	Isolated Thunderstorms	76° / 58°	
New York	Partly Cloudy	43° / 26°	
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	36° / 31°	
Paris	Partly Cloudy	38° / 30°	
Busan	Mostly Sunny	30° / 15°	
Rome	Showers	50° / 41°	
Salem	Cloudy	48° / 34°	
San Francisco	Showers	58° / 44°	
Seoul	Sunny	15° / 1°	
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	42° / 28°	
Washington, DC	Cloudy	41° / 25°	

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY			FEET
3:19 AM	High Tide	1.24	
8:39 AM	Low Tide	0.67	
2:53 PM	High Tide	1.80	
10:17 PM	Low Tide	-0.07	

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 1, 2020

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	6:55am	7:35am	1, 4, 6	UA174	5:10am	5:51am	1, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	6:55am	9:50pm	1 via Guam	UA184/174	10:40pm	5:51am+1	3, 5 via Guam
GUAM-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-GUAM			
UA183	8:00pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 5	UA184	10:40pm	4:30am+1	1, 3, 5

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF OCTOBER 8, 2020

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1301	8:30AM	9:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1205	11:00	11:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1302	11:00AM	11:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1206	12:00	12:15	Temporarily Unavailable
1303	3:30PM	4:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri	1207	13:00	13:15	Temporarily Unavailable
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
3101	9:30AM	10:00AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
3102	12:00AM	12:30AM	Mon/Tues/Wed/Thurs/Fri	1211	17:00	17:15	Temporarily Unavailable
3103	4:30PM	5:00PM	Mon/Wed/Fri	1212	17:00	17:15	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable	2101	7:30	7:45	Temporarily Unavailable
GUAM TO ROTA				2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
4301	13:00	13:30	Temporarily Unavailable	2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2105	11:30	11:45	Temporarily Unavailable
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2106	12:30	12:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1201	7:00	7:15	Temporarily Unavailable	2107	13:30	13:45	Temporarily Unavailable
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily	2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
				2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
				2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
				2111	17:30	17:45	Daily
				2112	18:30	18:45	Temporarily Unavailable

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Business

Isla Shave Ice Saipan: Time for a cool change

By **MARK RABAGO**
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Hawaiian shave ice is almost a must in a tropical island like Saipan.

This ice-based dessert can now be had at the Kada Dia Everyday Market in Chalan Kanoa, with Isla Shave Ice Saipan opening a stall last September.

Owner Leonardo Aveina said he was lucky enough to get a stall in the strategic loca-

tion of Kada Dia. "We chose Kada Dia because we wanted to be closer to the people in our community and what better way than to be near a residential area where kids can just walk over and enjoy the many treats we have," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

So far, so good. Isla Shave Ice Saipan has had a steady flow of customers since Day 1. "Business has been really good since we first opened up, especially with the support of

Twitter and Facebook muzzle Trump amid Capitol violence

In an unprecedented step, Facebook and Twitter suspended President Donald Trump from posting to their platforms Wednesday following the storming of the U.S. Capitol by his supporters.

Twitter locked Trump out of his account for 12 hours and said that future violations by Trump could result in a permanent suspension. The company required the removal of three of Trump's tweets, including a short video in which he urged those supporters to "go home" while also repeating falsehoods about the integrity of the presidential election. Trump's account deleted those posts, Twitter said; had they remained, Twitter had threatened to extend his suspension.

Facebook and Instagram, which Facebook owns, followed up in the evening, announcing that Trump wouldn't be able to post for 24 hours following two violations of its policies. The White House did not immediately offer a response to the actions.

While some cheered the platforms' actions, experts noted that the companies' actions follow years of hemming and hawing on Trump and his supporters spreading dangerous

misinformation and encouraging violence that have contributed to Wednesday's violence.

Jennifer Grygiel, a Syracuse University communications professor and an expert on social media, said Wednesday's events in Washington, D.C. are a direct result of Trump's use of social media to spread propaganda and disinformation, and that the platforms should bear some responsibility for their inaction.

"This is what happens," said Grygiel. "We didn't just see a breach at the Capitol. Social media platforms have been breached by the president repeatedly. This is disinformation. This was a coup attempt in the United States."

Grygiel said the platform's decision to remove the video—and Twitter's suspension—are too little, too late.

"They're creeping along towards firmer action," Grygiel said, calling Trump "Exhibit A" for the need for greater regulation of social media. "Social media is complicit in this because he has repeatedly used social media to incite violence. It's a culmination of years of propaganda and abuse of media by the president of the United States." (AP)



Isla Shave Ice Saipan owner Leonardo Aveina shows off the stall's bestselling rainbow shave ice combination.

the people in our community as well as the many distributors that have accommodated our small business."

He added that they've had repeat customers because their shave ice is unlike any other on Saipan. "Apart from the other shave ice establishments, we feel that we offer affordable prices for the quality of our syrups. We try to ensure that you get the best for the price you pay. We also want customers to be able to afford a meal and cold treats for the whole family."

Despite its name, Isla Shave Ice Saipan is not only about shave ice. "Our shave ice is the

most popular item on our menu and the kids love the rainbow combination. We love seeing the look of excitement on their faces. Ice cream milkshakes are also a big hit because we use actual ice cream," he said.

Under the food section, Aveina said their top sellers are the chili dogs and loaded nachos because of their homemade chili. They also have the loaded potato, which he said is getting more popular and they recently added pulled pork sandwiches to their menu.

In terms of promotions, Isla Shave Ice Saipan currently offers Isla Stamp Cards in which each card holder can receive a

free large shave ice for every 10 shave ice purchases.

Aveina said they've also collaborated with the NMC ProaPerks Program. For every \$10 purchase at Isla Shave Ice, you can receive one free small shave ice. "We also offer different party packages for the rental of our shave ice machines and supplies, especially for birthday parties and events."

In terms of safety in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, signs are posted at the front of the Isla Shave Ice Saipan stall informing customers to practice social distancing as well as to wear masks at all times. Hand sanitizers are also available for



MARK RABAGO
Isla Shave Ice's chili dog.



MARK RABAGO
Isla Shave Ice's loaded nachos because.

both the staff and customers. "Cleanliness is of the utmost importance," said Aveina.

Isla Shave Ice Saipan is open Monday-Friday from 11am to 7pm and Saturdays from 10am to 7pm and Sundays from 11am to 2pm.

"We want to thank our isla familia for their continued support. We truly appreciate your business and we hope that we have met your expectations. We hope to serve you again. Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram 'IslaShaveIceSPN,'" said Aveina.

Justice Department, federal court system hit by Russian hack

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Justice Department and the federal court system disclosed on Wednesday that they were among the dozens of U.S. government agencies and private businesses compromised by a massive, months-long cyberespionage campaign that U.S. officials have linked to elite Russia hackers.

The extent of the damage was unclear.

The department said that 3% of its Microsoft Office 365 email accounts were potentially affected, but did not say to whom those accounts belonged. There are no indications that classified systems were affected, the agency said. Office 365 isn't just email but a collaborative computing environment, which means that shared documents were also

surely accessed, said Dmitri Alperovitch, former chief technical officer of the cybersecurity firm CrowdStrike.

Separately, the Administrative Office of U.S. Courts informed federal judicial bodies across the nation that the courts' nationwide case management system was breached. That potentially gave the hackers access to sealed court documents, whose contents are highly sensitive.

The Justice Department said that on Dec. 24 it detected "previously unknown malicious activity" linked to the broader intrusions of federal agencies revealed earlier that month, according to a statement from spokesman Marc Raimondi.

Separately, the court office said on its website that "an ap-

parent compromise" of the U.S. judiciary's case management and electronic case file system was under investigation.

The Department of Homeland Security was scouring the system, it said, and cited a particular risk to sealed court filings, whose disclosure could jeopardize a lot more than active criminal investigations.

"The potential reach is vast. The actual reach is probably significant," said a federal court official who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to disclose the information. The official confirmed that the scope of the compromise was national but it was not clear how widespread.

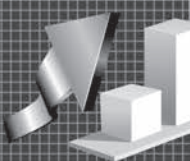
The sealed court files, if indeed breached, could hold information about national se-

curity, trade secrets and wire-tap transcripts, along with financial data from bankruptcy cases and the names of confidential informants in criminal cases, the official added.

On Tuesday, federal law enforcement and intelligence agencies formally implicated Russia in the intrusions, calling them part of a suspected intelligence gathering operation. President Donald Trump had previously questioned that consensus, suggesting without foundation that China could be to blame.

The hacking campaign was extraordinary in scale, with the intruders stalking through government agencies including the Treasury and Commerce departments, defense contractors and telecommunications companies for months by the time the breach was discovered.

STOCK PORTFOLIO



LEADING INDICATORS

DOW

30,829.40
+437.80
1.44%

S&P

3,748.14
+21.28
0.57%

NASDAQ

12,740.79
-78.17
0.61%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.2847
British Pound	0.7364
Canadian Dollar	1.2677
Chinese Yuan	6.3500
Euro	0.8124

Hong Kong Dollar	7.7526
Indian Rupee	72.7724
Japanese Yen	103.2040
Malaysian Ringgit	3.9816
New Zealand Dollar	1.3734
Philippine Peso	47.2216

Russian Ruble	72.8496
Singapore Dollar	1.3189
South Korean Won	1066.79
Swiss Franc	0.8796
Taiwan Dollar	6.3511
Thailand Baht	29.9290

Nation

Biden urges restoring decency after ‘assault’ on democracy

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—President-elect Joe Biden called Wednesday for the restoration of “simple decency” as a mob incited by his predecessor stormed the U.S. Capitol and delayed Congress from certifying the results of November’s election.

Biden had planned to deliver a speech focused on how to revive the economy and provide financial relief for small-business owners reeling from the coronavirus pandemic, giving routine political remarks from a theater in his native Delaware. But shortly before he was to begin speaking, demonstrators broke into the Capitol building, reaching as far as the Senate floor.

“Our democracy is under unprecedented assault unlike anything we’ve seen in modern times,” Biden said adding that the violent and chaotic events were “an assault on the rule of law.”

The Capitol building was locked down and police moved in with guns drawn as Vice President Mike Pence and lawmakers were evacuated to secure locations. National Guard troops were deployed and a citywide curfew called for shortly after dusk, as rioters continued to occupy the seat of Congress for hours.

“I call on this mob to pull back and allow democracy to go forward,” said the president-elect.

In an address that took only about 10 minutes and was televised against a split screen of the still-occupied Capitol



President-elect Joe Biden speaks at The Queen theater in Wilmington, Del., Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021.

AP

building, Biden attempted to project calm and to say that a deeply divided country can still come together. He returned to themes that were a centerpiece of his presidential campaign, including finding common political ground, and pledged to be president for all Americans, even those who didn’t vote for him.

But Biden also expressed shock and outrage.

“This is not decent, it’s chaos,” he said.

The unrest erupted as a joint session of Congress had convened to certify Biden’s election victory over President Donald

Trump. But, in anticipation of that occurring, thousands of pro-Trump demonstrators amassed outside the Capitol. The president himself addressed the crowd, which cheered his baseless claims of voter fraud and were protesting the results of a free and fair election.

Trump’s supporters then moved to besiege the Capitol—triggering unsettling scenes of disorder unlike anything Washington has seen in recent memory. The mob was eventually cleared out of the building and Congress moved to resume certification.

Biden stopped short of ac-

cusing Trump of treason but said what happened “borders on sedition.”

“The words of a president matter, no matter how good or bad that president is,” Biden said. “At their best, the words of a president can inspire. At their worst, they can incite.”

Biden called on Trump to “go on national television now, to fulfil his oath and defend the Constitution and demand an end to this siege.”

Instead, Trump released a video hours after the unrest began declaring, “I know your pain. I know your hurt. But you have to go home now.” He

went on to call the supporters “very special.”

White House press secretary Kayleigh McEnany also joined top congressional Republicans in urging an end to the violence and for the mob to leave the Capitol.

Biden has said previously that pursuing criminal action against Trump might not be “good” for American democracy, though he wouldn’t block future, independent Justice Department investigations into Trump once he leaves office.

There may be calls now for Biden to rethink that.

“The events of today re-

ally demonstrate that, for some people, rules do not matter, so you kind of have to govern that way,” said Alicia Garza, head of the Black to the Future Action Fund, an advocacy group that works to empower Black Americans in politics. “I would imagine that Joe Biden now understands that his role has completely shifted. He’s going to have to be—not the uniter in chief, he’s going to have to be the decider in chief.”

Biden’s original speech was delayed by more than an hour as his aides tore up the original, scheduled remarks and worked to craft a new statement that could address what was unfolding more than 100 miles away in the nation’s capital.

There didn’t appear to be additional security around Biden or his motorcade. But as the president-elect huddled backstage, agents on his U.S. Secret Service detail stood in their places in front of the stage where he was set to speak, which featured four American flags, for more than an hour.

Upon beginning his speech, Biden said the events at the Capitol “do not reflect a true America. Do not represent who we are.”

“The work of the moment and the work of the next four years must be the restoration of democracy, of decency, of honor, of respect, the rule of law,” he said. “Just plain, simple decency. The renewal of a politics that’s about solving problems, looking out for one another, not stoking the flames of hate and chaos.”

Somber Senate unites to reject election challenges

WASHINGTON (AP)—A sober, shaken Senate returned to its hallowed chamber Wednesday night to slap away a frivolous election challenge, but its secondary purpose seemed to be to rise from the wreckage of a shocking day in which they were forced to flee the Capitol by a mob of supporters of President Donald Trump.

The riot in the Capitol prompted more than half of those who had signed on to the protest to instead vote “no.” Catering to Trump’s supporters seemed less important than defending democracy.

Tennessee’s GOP senators abandoned the effort, as did Kelly Loeffler, R-Ga., who lost her runoff election Tuesday, helping to deliver control of the Senate to Democrats. Wisconsin’s GOP Sen. Ron Johnson dropped out, as did James Lankford, R-Okla., a promising younger Republican who raised eye-

brows when initially supporting the effort.

The 93-6 tally upholding President-elect Joe Biden’s win in Arizona was preceded by an unusually serious debate in which party labels were shed and constitutional prerogatives embraced.

“We will not be kept out of this chamber by thugs, mobs, or threats. We will not bow to lawlessness or intimidation,” said Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. “We are back at our posts. We will discharge our duty under the Constitution for our nation. And we are going to do it tonight.”

As senators debated, Trump took it on the chin from longtime critics like Mitt Romney, R-Utah. But many Republicans who spent years tiptoeing around Trump’s often-scandalous behavior seemed to finally have had enough.

“We witnessed today the damage that can result when

men in power and responsibility refuse to acknowledge the truth,” said Sen. Pat Toomey, R-Pa. “We saw bloodshed because the demagogue chose to spread falsehoods and sow distrust of his own fellow Americans.”

The debate was forced by Sens. Josh Hawley, R-Mo., and Ted Cruz, R-Texas, who argued that it was the only way to speak up for millions of Americans who believe Trump’s false claims that the election was stolen from him. But their reputations as presidential wannabes hung over the debate.

“I ask my colleagues, do we weigh our own political fortunes more heavily than we weigh the strength of our republic, the strength of our democracy, and the cause of freedom?” said Romney, whose desk is directly behind Hawley. “What’s the weight of personal acclaim compared to the weight of conscience?”

Ossoff seals Democrats’ sweep; will be youngest US senator

ATLANTA (AP)—As a teenager, Jon Ossoff was inspired by the pivotal role John Lewis played in the fight for racial equality when the civil rights icon was in his early 20s.

He was in awe of Lewis’ life, he told The Associated Press in December, particularly how someone “so young” had achieved such a prominent position as chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee.

At 33, the millennial Democrat will assume his own leadership mantle after being one of two candidates to help the party sweep Georgia’s crucial U.S. Senate runoff elections, a victory that sealed Democrats’ control of the chamber. Ossoff defeated Republican David Perdue in the runoff that was held Tuesday after neither he nor Perdue received 50% of the vote in November.

This is Ossoff’s first elec-

tion to public office, and he will be the youngest member of the Senate. But he has never let youth and inexperience be barriers to his aspirations.

In 2017, at the age of 29, he ran for Congress in Georgia in a race closely watched as an early referendum on President Donald Trump.

Though he lost, he shattered fundraising records and made the contest in a once reliably Republican district competitive. For his Senate campaign, he took a sharper approach. His platform was unabashedly liberal, calling for a \$15 minimum wage, a “public option” government health plan, and a new voting rights act to restore federal oversight of state election laws.

He also launched a fierce attack on Perdue while shrugging off his opponent’s exaggerated claim that he was pursuing a “radical socialist agenda.” At a debate in Octo-

ber, he called the 71-year-old former corporate executive “a crook” who used the COVID-19 pandemic to protect his stock portfolio while downplaying the seriousness of the virus. Perdue insisted the allegations were false.

Ossoff is smart, has a “good heart” and will put in the work to be a good senator, said Sarah Riggs Amico, a fellow Democrat who ran for lieutenant governor in Georgia in 2018 and challenged Ossoff in the Senate primary.

“The reality is government functions better when there are people from a wide variety of backgrounds who come to the table,” she said.

Voter Kaitlynn Poborsky, 28, said she chose Ossoff because she is looking for change and a senator who is passionate about addressing the coronavirus and climate change. She did not have concerns about his age.

Asia

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un admitted that his economic development plans have failed as he opened the nation's first full ruling party congress in five years, state media reported Wednesday.

In an opening speech at the congress that began Tuesday, Kim said that "almost all sectors fell a long way short of the set objectives" under a previous five-year development plan established at the 2016 congress, according to the North's official Korean Central News Agency.

"We should further promote and expand the victories and successes we have gained at the cost of sweat and blood, and prevent the painful lessons from being repeated," he was quoted as saying.

The Workers' Party Congress, one of the North's biggest propaganda spectacles, is meant to help Kim show a worried nation that he's firmly in control and to boost unity behind his leadership in the face of COVID-19 and other growing economic challenges.

But some observers are skeptical that the stage-managed congress will find any fundamental solutions to North Korea's difficulties, many of which stem from decades of economic mismanagement and Kim's headlong pursuit of expensive nuclear weapons meant to target the U.S. mainland.

Kim, 36, is holding the congress, which is expected to last a few days, amid what may be



In this photo provided by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un attends a ruling party congress in Pyongyang, North Korea Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2021.

Kim opens North Korean congress by admitting **POLICY FAILURES**

the toughest challenge of his nine-year rule and what he has called "multiple crises."

Authoritarian North Korea is one of the poorest countries in Asia, and the already besieged economy is being hammered by pandemic-related border closings with China, the North's major economic lifeline, the fallout from a series of natural disasters last

summer and persistent U.S.-led sanctions over the nuclear program.

U.S. President-elect Joe Biden, who takes office later in January, will likely maintain the sanctions and avoid any direct meeting with Kim until North Korea takes significant steps toward denuclearization.

The congress met in Pyongyang to determine "a fresh line

of struggle and strategic and tactical policies," with thousands of delegates and observers in attendance, KCNA reported.

In his speech, Kim described the present difficulties facing his government as "the worst-ever" and "unprecedented," according to KCNA.

Kim called for a new five-year plan and reviewed the

present status of North Korea's metal, chemical, electric and other key industries and set unspecified tasks for future development, KCNA said.

It's not the first time for Kim has been candid about flawed systems and policies. Last August, he acknowledged economic "shortcomings" caused by "unexpected and inevitable challenges." Also last year he

said that North Korea lacks modern medical facilities and that anti-disaster conditions in coastal areas is "poor."

Few experts doubt Kim's grip on power. But a prolonged coronavirus-related lockdown may be further destabilizing food and foreign exchange markets and aggravating livelihoods in North Korea. That could possibly lessen Kim's authority, some observers say.

Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul, said that "the fundamental problem" is that "Kim wants regime-sustaining economic growth while retaining nuclear weapons."

"Pyongyang is thus likely to demand sanctions relief for merely reducing tensions rather than making progress on denuclearization," he said.

U.S.-led sanctions toughened after Kim's unusually aggressive run of nuclear and missile tests in 2016 and 2017. They maintain a ban on major export items such as coal, textiles and seafood. Nevertheless, Kim has still repeatedly pushed for an expansion of his nuclear arsenal to cope with what he calls U.S. hostility.

Kim entered talks with President Donald Trump in 2018, but their diplomacy has been deadlocked for about two years because of wrangling over the sanctions.

The pandemic and typhoons and flooding last summer—which destroyed houses, farming land and other infrastructure across North Korea—have further hurt the North's economy.

Hong Kong arrests 53 activists under national security law

HONG KONG (AP)—Hong Kong police arrested 53 former lawmakers and democracy proponents Wednesday for allegedly violating the new national security law by participating in unofficial election primaries for the territory's legislature last year.

The mass arrests were the largest move against Hong Kong's democracy movement since the law was imposed by Beijing last June to quell dissent in the semi-autonomous territory.

"The operation today targets the active elements who are suspected to be involved in the crime of overthrowing, or interfering (in) ... the Hong Kong government's legal execution of duties," Hong Kong's security minister, John Lee, said at a news conference.

He said those arrested were suspected of trying to paralyze the government

by attempting to gain a majority in the legislature to create a situation in which the chief executive had to resign and the government would stop functioning.

A video on former lawmaker Lam Cheuk-ting's Facebook page showed police arriving at his home and telling him he was "suspected of violating the national security law, subverting state power." Police told those recording the video to stop or risk arrest.

The legislative election that would have followed the unofficial primaries was postponed by a year by Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam, who cited the public health risks during the coronavirus pandemic. Mass resignations and disqualifications of pro-democracy lawmakers have left the legislature largely a pro-Beijing body.

Lee said the police would not target those who voted in the unofficial primaries, which were held in July and attracted more than 600,000 voters even though pro-Beijing lawmakers and politicians had warned the event could breach the security law.

All of the pro-democracy candidates in the unofficial primaries were arrested, apart from a few who had fled the territory, according to reports by the South China Morning Post, online platform Now News and political groups.

At least seven members of Hong Kong's Democratic Party—the city's largest opposition party—were arrested, including former party chairman Wu Chi-wai. Former lawmakers Lam, Helena Wong and James To were also arrested, according to a post on the party's Facebook page.

China criticizes US order against dealing with Chinese apps

BEIJING (AP)—China's government on Wednesday accused Washington of misusing national security as an excuse to hurt commercial competitors after President Donald Trump signed an order banning transactions with payment services Alipay and WeChat Pay and six other apps.

Tuesday's order escalated a conflict with Beijing over technology, security and spying accusations that has plunged U.S.-Chinese relations to their lowest level in decades. It followed confusion in financial markets after the New York Stock Exchange announced last week it would remove three Chinese phone companies and then withdrew that plan Monday.

"This is another example of the U.S.'s bullying, arbitrary and hegemonic behavior," said a foreign ministry spokeswoman, Hua Chunying. "This is an example of the United States over-generalizing the

concept of national security and abusing its national power to unreasonably suppress foreign companies."

Beijing will take unspecified "necessary measures" to protect Chinese companies, Hua said, repeating a government statement made following previous U.S. sanctions announcements. It rarely has been followed by action.

Trump's order cites unspecified concerns about apps collecting Americans' personal and financial data and turning it over to China's communist government.

Hua ridiculed that argument, pointing to U.S. government intelligence gathering.

"This is like a gangster who wantonly steals but then clamors to be protected from robbery," Hua said. "How hypocritical and ridiculous it is."

Chinese smartphone apps face similar opposition in neighboring India, which has blocked dozens of them on

security grounds amid a military standoff over a disputed section of border between the two countries.

Trump in August issued orders banning dealings with the popular Chinese-owned video app TikTok and the WeChat messaging app.

Those and this week's order take effect after President-elect Joe Biden is due to be sworn in Jan. 20, leaving open the question of whether the government will go ahead with it.

A representative for Biden's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment Tuesday.

Alipay is part of the empire of billionaire Jack Ma, founder of e-commerce giant Alibaba Group and financial platform Ant Group. WeChat Pay is operated by rival tech giant Tencent. The others named in the order are CamScanner, QQ Wallet, SHA-REit, Tencent QQ, Vmate and WPS Office.

World

World leaders are appalled by storming of US Capitol

Leaders around the world condemned the storming of the U.S. Capitol by supporters of President Donald Trump on Wednesday, expressing shock at the chaos unfolding in a country they once relied upon for global leadership.

"Disgraceful scenes in US Congress," tweeted Prime Minister Boris Johnson of Britain, a staunch ally of the United States over generations. "The United States stands for democracy around the world and it is now vital that there should be a peaceful and orderly transfer of power."

Other allies were similarly appalled at what they described as an attack on American democracy, though some said they believed U.S. democratic institutions would withstand the turmoil. Some leaders singled out Trump for harsh criticism.

"Trump and his supporters should finally accept the decision of the American voters and stop trampling on democracy," German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas wrote on Twitter. "From inflammatory words come violent deeds." He added that "contempt for democratic institutions has disastrous effects."

"The beauty of democracy?" with a shrug emoji was the reaction tweeted by Bashir Ahmad, a personal assistant to the president of Nigeria, which has seen several coups since independence—including one led decades ago by President Muhammadu Buhari, who most recently entered the office via a vote.

Chilean President Sebastián Piñera and Colombian President Iván Duque were among those in Latin America who denounced the pro-



AP
People shelter in the House gallery as protesters try to break into the House Chamber at the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington.

elect Joe Biden.

"This is insurrection. Nothing less. In Washington," tweeted Carl Bildt, a former prime minister of Sweden.

Turkey, a NATO ally that has sometimes been at odds with Washington, expressed concern over the images of angry Trump supporters trying to thwart the certification of Biden as the new president. The chaos forced lawmakers to be rushed from the building.

A Turkish Foreign Ministry statement urged all parties in the United States to use "moderation and common sense."

"We believe that the United States will overcome this domestic political crisis with maturity," the ministry said.

The ministry statement also urged Turkish citizens in the United States to stay away from crowds and demonstrations. (AP)

testers, but both also said they were confident that American democracy and the rule of law would prevail.

"In this sad episode in the U.S., supporters of fascism showed their real face: anti-democratic and aggressive," tweeted Luis Roberto Barroso, Brazilian Supreme Court justice and the head of the country's electoral court. He said he hoped "American society and institutions react with vigor to this threat to democracy."

Venezuela, which is under U.S. sanctions, said the events in Washington show that the U.S. "is suffering what it has generated in other countries with its politics of aggression."

Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro has survived U.S.-

backed opposition efforts to oust him despite accusations of human rights abuses, civil unrest and a humanitarian crisis that has forced millions to flee the oil-rich country.

In Puerto Rico, many people took to social media and joked that the U.S. territory no longer wanted statehood. Independence, they said, looked appealing for the first time in decades.

In fact, it was that pursuit of independence that marked one of the last times the U.S. Congress was stormed violently. Four members of Puerto Rico's Nationalist Party opened fire on the House floor in March 1954, wounding five lawmakers.

Italians watched the events

with shock, having always considered the U.S. to be the model of democracy and the country that rescued Italy after its fascist descent during World War II.

"This is the widely anticipated outcome of Trumpism," tweeted a retired Italian center-left politician, Pierluigi Castagnetti. "And unfortunately it won't end today. When politics is replaced by deception and fanaticism of the people the drift is inevitable."

European Parliament President David Sassoli, who leads one of the largest legislatures in the world, also denounced the scenes at the Capitol. The European Union has spent four cantankerous years dealing with the Trump admin-

istration, and its top officials have repeatedly said they are looking forward to a better relationship under President-

Netanyahu reelection hopes hinge on vaccination campaign

JERUSALEM (AP)—For media-obsessed Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the coronavirus vaccine has arrived just in time.

With elections approaching in March, Netanyahu has placed his world-leading vaccination drive at the center of his reelection campaign—launching an aggressive media blitz portraying him as almost singlehandedly leading the country out of the pandemic. He appears to be betting that a successful vaccination effort can persuade voters to forget about his corruption trial and the economic damage caused by the coronavirus crisis.

Netanyahu, like his good friend Donald Trump and other world leaders, frequently tries to use social media and tightly controlled press conferences to bypass the traditional media—and the scrutiny that has come along with it. While this strategy has often served Netanyahu well, his obsession with controlling the message also threatens to backfire.

It lies at the heart of a corruption case in which he is accused of granting favors to powerful media figures in exchange for positive coverage of him and his family. An expanded indict-

ment released this week outlined 150 incidents showing detailed control he allegedly tried to exert over the media. This included pressure on a news site to drop critical coverage about a lacy dress worn by his wife Sara, and pushing the site to publish photos of her meeting actor Leonardo DiCaprio.

Netanyahu's tactics have also contributed to a nascent uprising in his own party. Two prominent defectors accused him of creating a "personality cult" in their resignation speeches.

Since he became the first Israeli to be vaccinated two weeks ago in a festive event broadcast live on national television, Netanyahu's office has pumped out a constant stream of statements, tweets and videos showing the prime minister extolling the virtues of the vaccine and claiming credit for making it available to the broader public.

"I have brought the vaccines and you are giving the vaccines," he recently told health workers at a clinic in an Arab town in northern Israel as he implored residents to get the shot. "The whole world is amazed at Israel. They are writing that Israel is a wonder."

UK leader vows to use 'every second' to vaccinate vulnerable

LONDON (AP)—U.K. Prime Minister Boris Johnson pledged that his government would use "every available second" to shield the elderly and the vulnerable from the virus rampaging across Britain as he told Parliament on Wednesday why the country needed to return to a COVID-19 lockdown.

Lawmakers were recalled from their Christmas recess to discuss the measures, which came into force at midnight. Despite some grumbling, they voted 524-16 to approve England's third national lockdown because there is a wide consensus on the need for tougher restrictions to control soaring new infections.

"When the Office for National Statistics reports that more than 2% of the popu-

lation is now infected, and when the number of patients in hospitals in England is now 40% higher than the first peak in April, it is inescapable that the facts are changing, and we must change our response," Johnson said.

He said "we will use every available second of the lockdown to place this invisible shield around the elderly and the vulnerable" until vaccination provides a "means of escape" from lockdown.

The U.K. is in a maelstrom of rising COVID-19 infections, hospitalizations and deaths. Britain reported more than 60,000 new confirmed cases in 24 hours for the second day in a row on Wednesday. Authorities said more than 403,914 people had tested positive in the past

seven days, a 43% increase from the previous week.

Rising infections are also putting an unprecedented strain on the nation's health-care system. Hospitals in the U.K. are treating 30,451 coronavirus patients, well over 40% more than during the pandemic's first peak in April.

Authorities reported 1,041 deaths on Wednesday, the highest since April 21. Hospitals are jammed with COVID-19 patients and medical personnel, many of whom are exhausted after months of dealing with the virus, find themselves stretched thin. The situation is dire.

"We've got these unprecedented numbers of patients coming in with COVID," said Dr. Tom Dolphin, a member

of the British Medical Association council who works in London. "And we probably haven't seen the peak yet from the patients coming in who got infected during Christmas and the new year period."

When Johnson on Monday announced the stay-at-home order and the nationwide closure of gyms, pubs, restaurants and nonessential shops, he said the lockdown terms would remain in place until mid-February. By that time, the government hopes to have given one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine to about 13 million people who are most at risk—including everyone in the country over age 70—and the progress may potentially allowing some relaxation of the restrictions.

Off the Wall

Man dressed as Santa rescued from power lines in California

RIO LINDA, Calif. (AP)—Santa found himself a little more tied up than usual this time of year.

A Northern California man impersonating Santa Claus and flying on a powered parachute was rescued Sunday after he became entangled in power lines, authorities said.

The incident happened shortly after the man took off near a school in Rio Linda to deliver candy canes to children in his community. He flew into a maze of power lines and wound up suspended in them, a Federal Aviation Administration spokesman told KCRA-TV.

The man, who wasn't identified, was not injured.

Video from the rescue shows the red-white-and-blue aircraft dangling overhead as Santa sat fastened to the pilot seat.

Neighbors watched from the ground as crews worked.

Colleen Bousliman, who lives nearby, said the pilot flies overhead often.

"He flies just around so people can see and flies around people's houses," she said. "This was the first time he was in his Santa suit."

Power was shut off during the rescue to about 200 customers in the Rio Linda area, according to Sacramento Metropolitan Fire District spokesman Chris Vestal.

"It's unfortunate, but we all need to remember that there's still a lot of good out in the world, there are people doing good things and to look at the brightness of the holiday season," Vestal said.

He said it didn't take long to rescue the costumed pilot and lower him to safety.

"W/o a scratch & full of good cheer we made sure Old St. Nick will use his reindeer when he sees you later this year," the fire department said in a tweet after the incident.



In this photo provided by the California Highway Patrol, a man dressed as Santa Claus who was flying on a powered parachute on his way to deliver candy canes to children is seen stuck on power lines in Rio Linda, Calif., on Sunday, Dec. 20, 2020. The man was rescued uninjured. **AP**

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Massachusetts lawmaker wants to name official state dinosaur

BOSTON (AP)—A Massachusetts state lawmaker is asking for the public's help to select an official state dinosaur. State Rep. Jack Lewis tweeted Monday that he plans on filing the legislation on Jan. 15, adding that the effort is a good way for children to learn about the legislative process.

But first, the Framingham Democrat is asking residents to select from one of two dinosaur species discovered in Massachusetts. *Podokesaurus holyokensis*, which means "swift-footed lizard of Holyoke," was first discovered near Mount Holyoke in 1910 by Mignon Talbot, the first woman to name and describe a dinosaur, according to Lewis. The species was 3 to 6 feet (around 1 to 2 meters) in length, weighed approximately 90 pounds (40 kilograms), and was estimated to run 9 to 12 mph (14 to 19 kph). *Anchisaurus polyzelus*, which means "much sought after near lizard" was discovered in 1855 in Springfield. They were more than 6 feet long and about 60 to 75 pounds (27 to 34 kilograms). Paleontologists have served as consultants for the project, he said. Twelve states already have official state dinosaurs, Lewis said.

McDonald's sells 'Spam burger' with cookie crumbs in China

BEIJING (AP)—McDonald's is selling a sandwich made of Spam topped with crushed Oreo cookies Monday in China in an attention-grabbing move that has raised eyebrows. Global brands from restaurants to automakers sometimes roll out offbeat products to appeal to Chinese tastes in the populous and intensely competitive market. This is undoubtedly one of them. "I thought it was delicious," said a comment signed Feifei Mao Enthusiast on the Sina Weibo microblog service. "Is that because I love McDonald's too deeply? Or is something wrong with my taste?" The sandwich is made of two slices of Spam, a product of Hormel Foods LLC, and Mondelez International's Oreo cookies, topped with mayonnaise. McDonald's Corp. said the sandwich was part of a series of "members only" promotions to be released on Mondays in China. "There is no need to release unnecessary products," said a comment left on the company's microblog account. It received more than 2,000 "likes." McDonald's said it planned to sell no more than 400,000 of the "Lunchmeat Burgers." It wasn't clear how many have been sold or how many people who flooded social media with scathing comments had eaten one. "When you hate someone but have to invite him to dinner, you can ask him to eat McDonald's Oreo lunchmeat burger," said a separate comment on Sina Weibo.

Gingerbread monolith delights San Francisco on Christmas Day

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—In true pop-up art fashion, a nearly 7-foot-tall monolith made of gingerbread mysteriously appeared on a San Francisco hilltop on Christmas Day and collapsed the next day.

The three-sided tower, held together by icing and decorated with a few gumdrops, delighted the city on Friday when word spread about its existence.

During his morning run, Ananda Sharma told KQED-FM he climbed to Corona Heights Park to see the sunrise when he spotted what he thought was a big post. He said he smelled the scent of gingerbread before realizing what it was.

"It made me smile. I wonder who did it, and when they put it there," he said.

People trekked to the park throughout the day, even as light rain fell on the ephemeral, edible art object. In one video posted online, someone took a bite of the gingerbread.

Phil Ginsburg, head of city's Recreation and Parks Department, told KQED the site "looks like a great spot to get baked" and confirmed his staff will not remove the monument "until the cookie crumbles."

It did by Saturday morning, a fitting end to what was surely an homage to the discovery and swift disappearance of a shining metal monolith in Utah's red-rock desert last month. It became a subject of fascination around the world as it evoked the movie "2001: A Space Odyssey" and drew speculation about its otherworldly origins.



A gingerbread monolith stands on Christmas Day, Dec. 25, 2020, on a bluff in Corona Heights Park overlooking San Francisco. **AP**

The still-anonymous creator of the Utah monument did not secure permission to plant the hollow, stainless steel object on public land.

A similar metal structure was found and quickly disappeared on a hill in northern Romania. Days later, another monolith was discovered at the pinnacle of a trail in Atascadero, California, but it was later dismantled by a group of young men, city officials said.

Christmas in Florida: Chilly forecast, falling iguanas



In this handout photo from the Florida Surf Museum on Florida's Space Coast shows a man dressed in a Santa Claus costume surfing Wednesday, Dec. 23, 2020, in Cocoa Beach, Fla. **AP**

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—With unexpectedly cold weather in the forecast and pandemic-related curfews in some places, Florida is about to have a Christmas unlike any other in recent memory, and it may involve falling iguanas.

The National Weather Service earlier this week warned that South Florida could experience the coldest Christmas Day in 21 years. Morning lows on Saturday could drop into the low 30s and 40s degrees Fahrenheit, the weather service said.

"Brrr! Much colder temps expected for Christmas," the National Weather Service in Miami tweeted earlier this week. "Falling iguanas are possible."

Because they are cold-

blooded reptiles, iguanas living in South Florida trees often become immobile in chilly weather, causing them to drop to the ground when the thermometer plummets, though they are still alive.

In Jacksonville, the temperature was expected to drop 50 degrees, from about 80 degrees Fahrenheit on Thursday to around 30 degrees Fahrenheit on Friday, putting it on the path to being one of the five coldest Christmas Days on record, according to the National Weather Service in Jacksonville.

A squall line with severe storms and fast-moving winds also was headed for north Florida on Christmas Eve.

Around the state, overnight shelters were opened to take in people who would otherwise

be exposed to the cold, including several churches that were planning to hold Christmas services. Many of the shelters promised social distancing and protective equipment to prevent the spread of the novel coronavirus.

The pandemic also was impacting a Space Coast tradition—Surfing Santa Day, which takes place the day before Christmas. Normally drawing hundreds of surfers in Santa costumes to the Cocoa Beach surf and thousands of their cheering supporters on the beach, this year's event was moved online. Participants were encouraged to individually go surfing or paddle-boarding at their favorite spot and post photos or videos to social media.

Science & Technology

Well-preserved Ice Age woolly rhino found in Siberia

MOSCOW (AP)—A well-preserved Ice Age woolly rhino with many of its internal organs still intact has been recovered from permafrost in Russia's extreme north.

Russian media reported Wednesday that the carcass was revealed by melting permafrost in Yakutia in Au-

gust. Scientists are waiting for ice roads in the Arctic region to become passable to deliver it to a lab for studies next month.

It's among the best-preserved specimens of the Ice Age animal found to date. The carcass has most of its soft tissues still intact, including part

of the intestines, thick hair and a lump of fat. Its horn was found next to it.

Recent years have seen major discoveries of mammoths, woolly rhinos, Ice Age foal, and cave lion cubs as the permafrost increasingly melts across vast areas of Siberia because of global warming.

Yakutia 24 TV quoted Valery Plotnikov, a paleontologist with the regional branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, as saying the woolly rhino was likely 3- or 4-years-old when it died.

Plotnikov said the young

rhino likely drowned.

Scientists dated the carcass as anywhere from 20,000- to 50,000-years-old. More precise dating will be possible once it is delivered to a lab for radiocarbon studies.

The carcass was found on

the bank of the Tirekhtyakh river in the Abyisk district, close to the area where another young woolly rhino was recovered in 2014. Researchers dated that specimen, which they called Sasha, at 34,000 years old.



This photo taken in Aug. 2020 shows the carcass of a woolly rhino, taken in Yakutia.

AP

Japanese spacecraft's gifts: Asteroid chips like charcoal

TOKYO (AP)—They resemble small fragments of charcoal, but the soil samples collected from an asteroid and returned to Earth by a Japanese spacecraft were hardly disappointing.

The samples Japanese space officials described Thursday are as big as 1 centimeter (0.4 inch) and rock hard, not breaking when picked up or poured into another container. Smaller black, sandy granules the spacecraft collected and returned separately were described last week.

The Hayabusa2 spacecraft got the two sets of samples last year from two locations on the asteroid Ryugu, more than 300 million kilometers (190 million miles) from Earth. It dropped them from space onto a target in the

Australian Outback, and the samples were brought to Japan in early December.

The sandy granules the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency described last week were from the spacecraft's first touchdown in April 2019.

The larger fragments were from the compartment allocated for the second touchdown on Ryugu, said Tomohiro Usui, space materials scientist.

To get the second set of samples in July last year, Hayabusa2 dropped an impactor to blast below the asteroid's surface, collecting material from the crater so it would be unaffected by space radiation and other environmental factors.

Usui said the size differences suggest different hardness of the bedrock on the as-

teroid. "One possibility is that the place of the second touchdown was a hard bedrock and larger particles broke and entered the compartment."

JAXA is continuing the initial examination of the asteroid samples ahead of fuller studies next year. Scientists hope the samples will provide insight into the origins of the solar system and life on Earth. Following studies in Japan, some of the samples will be shared with NASA and other international space agencies for additional research.

Hayabusa2, meanwhile, is on an 11-year expedition to another small and distant asteroid, 1998KY26, to try to study possible defenses against meteorites that could fly toward Earth.

Trying to stop the invasion of the web trackers

Q: I try to keep my Windows 10 PC free of unwanted software by running PC security (Malwarebytes) and cleaning (CCleaner) programs on my Windows 10 PC. I also use the DuckDuckGo search engine that doesn't create profiles of its users.

Yet when I log into my Gmail account, my PC acquires about 200 to 300 web trackers (a type of software that monitors your online activity) that I have to remove using CCleaner. If I log into Facebook, I get another 300 to 400 trackers. If I spend a couple of hours online, I can accumulate 20,000 or more trackers, which is far more than my old Windows 7 PC gets. Why does Windows 10 attract more tracking software, and what can I do to maintain my privacy?

A: There are several reasons that your Windows 10 PC is overrun by web trackers, bits of software code that follow you online to help marketers learn more about you. Here are a few:

■ Web trackers make money. Nearly all commercial websites use them to create an elaborate profile of your tastes and habits, a profile that the websites can use themselves or sell to others.

Your online movements are tracked by cookies (bits of code left in your web browser), Google (and Facebook tracker software that follows you even when you aren't on their websites), session recorders (that record everything you do on a website), key-loggers

TECH Q&A

By **STEVE ALEXANDER**

Star Tribune

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Star Tribune of Minneapolis. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.



(that record what you type into text boxes on a website, even if you don't submit anything), beacons (invisible objects in a web page that record how many times you viewed that page) and "fingerprinting" (a record of the technical details of your computer that can be used to identify you.)

■ While privacy advocates are aware of web trackers, most people aren't. As a result, web tracking keeps expanding. A recent study showed that 87% of the most popular websites now track your movements, whether you sign in to the website or not (see tinyurl.com/yyy5qyas). (View the web trackers on any website at tinyurl.com/y2em59e6).

■ Windows 10 may indeed attract more web tracker software, because it collects more personal information about you than earlier versions of Windows did. Microsoft shares some of that information with advertisers.

■ Until recently, web browsers didn't offer much protection against web tracking.

Here are the best ways to block web trackers:

■ Get a new web browser with more defenses. The latest versions of the four most popular browsers—Google

Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Mozilla Firefox and Apple Safari—have improved (but not perfect) anti-tracking features. A reviewer of the latest Safari browser reported that it blocked 90 web trackers in five minutes of online activity (see tinyurl.com/y8ggnzat). But be sure your browser's anti-tracking features are turned on (see tinyurl.com/y2pillywb).

■ Adjust the privacy settings in Windows 10. The Windows 10 settings you may want to change (see tinyurl.com/y50thu62) include the "advertising ID" (monitors your online travels for advertisers), "location tracking" (helps advertisers localize what they promote to you), "Timeline" (keeps track of what you're doing so that you can switch from one PC to another without interruption) and Cortana, the Windows 10 digital assistant (monitors your location, e-mail, contacts, and calendar, and keeps a record of every "chat" you've had with Cortana).

■ Add more anti-tracking software to your web browser. Top-rated programs include DuckDuckGo Privacy Essentials, Privacy Badger and Ghostery (see tinyurl.com/yb3a8ccx).

Science Matters

Climate prospects for a future world

A new study explores what Earth's climate will be like in roughly **250 million years** — four times as distant from today as the dinosaur extinction was in the past — when the land collects into a supercontinent.

Four models of world's future

All are highly speculative because it is not known just how — and how fast — Earth's tectonic plates will migrate

Novopangaea

Pacific closes; Australia joins East Asia; Antarctica moves north

Pangaea proxima*

Atlantic and Indian oceans close; Africa, Americas, Europe rejoin

* Or Pangaea Ultima, Neopangaea, Pangaea II

Researchers projected climates of these two:

Aurica

Continents merge into one great consolidated land mass sitting at the equator

Amasia

Large new supercontinent at current Arctic; smaller one at today's Antarctic

December-February snow and ice in alternative new worlds

Aurica 200 million years from now

Earth could warm by 3° Celsius

Sea level rises as ice masses melt

Many beaches; dry inland

June-Aug snow falls here

Amasia 250 million years from now

Sea level lower as ice packs grow

"Conveyor belt" currents no longer carry heat from equator to poles

Poles are colder, snow and ice-covered year-round

Source: Michael Way of NASA Goddard; Earth Institute at Columbia University; Hannah S. Davies of Lisbon University (four maps)
Graphic: Helen Lee McComas, Tribune News Service

Life & Style

Media captures unprecedented storming of US Capitol

NEW YORK (AP)—The storming of the U.S. Capitol by supporters of President Donald Trump played out on television in searing fashion Wednesday, with stunning pictures of guns drawn in the House of Representatives and hand-to-hand combat with police.

The scenes of bedlam and fear at the center of national government erupted quickly, but journalists wondered whether they should have been a surprise.

"It's hard to believe that this is going on," said CNN's Wolf Blitzer. "This is unprecedented, it is dangerous and this is so, so embarrassing for the United States of America."

Journalists had gathered to follow Congress' counting of electoral college ballots to seal the victory of President-elect Joe Biden, a normally routine event turned tense by the challenge to the vote by some of Trump's political allies.

As that debate was ongoing, the media's focus shifted to outside Congress, where supporters who had gathered to hear an aggrieved president fume about his defeat began streaming to the Capitol. They climbed the Capitol steps, where one person held a placard saying "fight for Trump."

After breaching the building, pictures emerged of an armed standoff in the House as politicians cowered behind desks and people smashed the building's windows and climbed in. Newsmax showed stunning footage of police and rioters squaring off in the Capitol Rotunda.

"The mob has overtaken the



Trump supporters gather outside the Capitol, Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021, in Washington. AP

process of trying to certify the Electoral College," said Fox News Channel reporter Chad Pergram. "Security here at the U.S. Capitol has failed."

Given Trump's speech and two months of baseless charges that the election was rigged, several journalists raised questions about why law enforcement seemed so unprepared.

"The shock I have is how easy this was," said NBC's Chuck Todd.

As images of people banging on a door at the Capitol aired, ABC News anchor George Stephanopoulos said, "that is not Ukraine, that is not Belarus."

There were debates in newsrooms across the country

about what terminology to use to describe the participants. Demonstrators? Protestors? Rioters? A mob? CNN's Jake Tapper said, "we call them terrorists." NBC's Lester Holt said "there are some elements of a coup attempt."

CBS News' Norah O'Donnell conducted an extraordinary interview with House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, pressing him on whether he has urged Trump to do something to stop his supporters and confronting him on whether the false claims of widespread electoral fraud had led to it.

"I just wonder whether someone is going to ... call a spade a spade and I am giv-

ing you the opportunity right now," O'Donnell said.

Biden spoke to the nation, followed by Trump. The president urged his supporters to respect law enforcement and go home, but also said he "loved" them and repeated claims of a stolen election. Tapper wondered whether CNN should even have aired it.

On CNBC, Shepard Smith ordered a tape of Trump's message stopped in mid-stream. "Stop the tape," he said. "That is not true, and we are not airing it."

CNN's Abby Phillip said Americans needed to question whether Trump was even capable of leading the country for the next two weeks.

"He is inciting violence against the government itself, lawlessness, vandalism and he's also completely MIA in terms of his principal job, which is to keep this country safe," she said.

Even as the building was being stormed, Trump supporters in the media were calling into question who was responsible. On One America News Network, anchor Dan Ball said the violence was nothing like civil rights demonstrations last summer, and suggested without evidence that Antifa demonstrators may have disguised themselves as Trump supporters for the siege on the Capitol.

"We don't have all the facts," he said.

Young becomes latest artist to sell stake in his songs

NEW YORK (AP)—Neil Young has become the latest musician to strike gold with his song catalogue, selling a 50 percent stake in his music to a British investment company in a deal announced on Wednesday.

The Hipgnosis Songs Fund said it had acquired half of the copyright and income interests in some 1,180 songs written by the 75-year-old rock star, composer of "Heart of Gold," "Rockin' in the Free World" and "Cinnamon Girl."

Terms were not disclosed.

The deal comes a month after Bob Dylan sold publishing rights to more than 600 songs to the Universal Music Publishing Group for a reported fortune of between \$300 million and a half billion dollars. Stevie Nicks sold an 80 percent stake in her music to Primary Wave for a reported \$100 million.

Merck Mercuriadis, founder of Hipgnosis Songs Fund Limited, said that he bought his first Neil Young album when he was seven years old.

"'Harvest' was my companion and I know every note, every word, every pause and silence intimately," he said. "Neil Young, or at least his music, has been my friend... ever since."

The businessman also said Young's late manager, Elliot Roberts, was equally an idol to him.

Too much togetherness puts pressure on happy relationship

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a relationship with a wonderful man, "Andy," for two years. I couldn't ask for a better partner. We are both divorced with children, and they get along like brothers and sisters.

Even though our marriages ended, mine wasn't an ordeal. My ex and I both knew it wasn't working anymore, and we still get along pretty well. But Andy and his ex-wife never got along and argued for 18 years, and herein lies the problem. He gives me no space—ever.

I have discussed it with him numerous times, and his response is, "Well, I have never been this happy, and I love spending time with you." I enjoy our time, too, but I feel controlled without him acting controlling. He wants to be with me every minute. I look forward to going to work to escape! How can I get him to listen?

JOINED AT THE HIP

DEAR JOINED: The next time you have "the conversation," and he tells you he has to be with you every minute because he loves spending time with you, remind him that there are two of you in this relationship. Then inform him that with no time for yourself or friends, you feel claustrophobic, which isn't healthy for you or the relationship.

Healthy relationships are those in which both parties allow each other the space to be individuals. If you don't draw a line and insist that he accept it, he will smother you.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY: You always give great advice on how to respond to people. My husband had a stroke 2 1/2 years ago. We ventured out for the first time to a store. He was holding onto the cart and stopped to rest. A man behind us, who was obviously following too close, threw up his hands in disgust. Evidently we weren't moving fast enough for him, so he made a snide remark; I replied that my husband is recovering from a stroke.

Unfortunately, a week ago he suffered another stroke. How can I respond to people who are rude to those who might be slow or disabled?

PATIENCE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR PATIENCE: I think you handled the situation beautifully. All you can do is hang on to your temper and

try to calmly educate people like the impatient (and rude) individual you encountered that day.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My fiancée and I will be moving in together soon, and we're looking forward to a pet-filled life. The concern we both share is that my mother and hers are allergic to animals and will probably never be able to visit because of it. We love each other's parents and would like to have them in our lives as much as possible. Are there rules of etiquette for pets and families with allergies?

PET LOVER IN GEORGIA

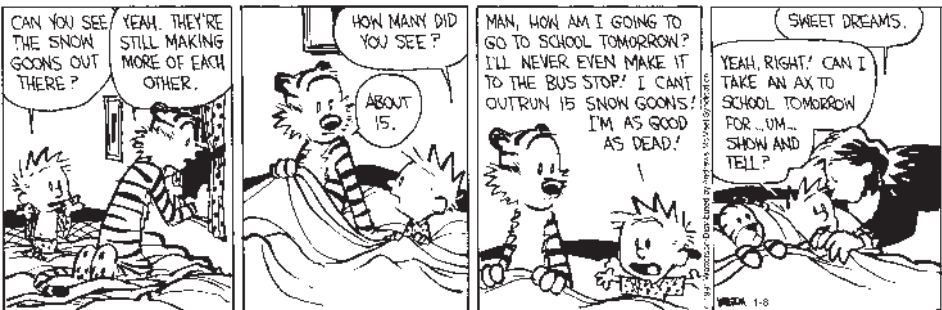
DEAR PET LOVER: If your parents are highly allergic, putting your pets in another room or outside won't work because their hair and dander would be in your carpets and on your furniture. In a case like this, your parents should talk to their doctors and ask if they can get vaccinated to lessen or alleviate their allergies. If that isn't an option, you and your fiancée may have to visit THEM, wearing freshly laundered clothes so you won't bring any allergens with you.

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable—and most frequently requested—poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



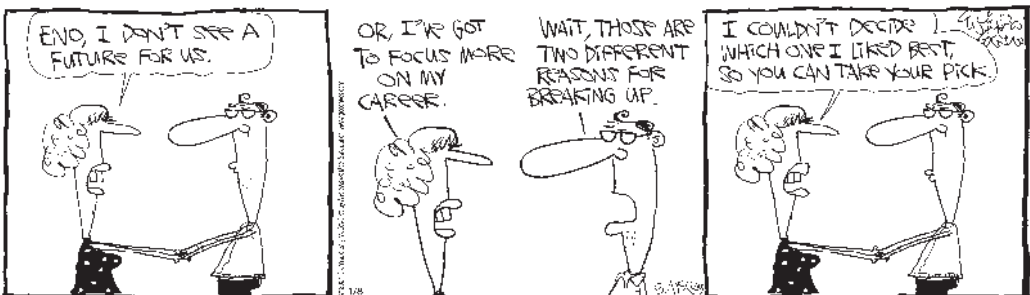
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Lucy of "Kill Bill"

4 Mas' mates

7 Welsh pooch

12 Online chats, briefly

13 J.D. holder

14 Two-tone cookies

15 —jongg

16 Coat-storage area in a restaurant

18 Census stat

19 — Haute

20 Lowly worker

22 Compass dir.

23 Young whale

27 UFO crew

29 Ran off to wed

31 Bamboo eater

34 Thespian

35 Somno-lent

37 Previ-ously

38 "Roots" author

39 Immi-grant's subj.

41 Opposite of "sans"

45 Proportion

47 Ms. Longoria

48 Hotel security measure

52 —

53 Craze

54 Soccer's Hamm

55 Eastern path

56 Antlered animals

57 Utter

58 NBC weekend show

DOWN

1 Succo-tash

2 Mirror's offering

3 Theater worker

4 Treaty

5 Acropolis locale

6 Boat's back

7 Pepsi rival

8 Hockey's Bobby

9 Old Olds

10 Sticky stuff

11 Belief

17 Manitoba tribe

21 UPS rival

23 Winter quaff

24 Likely

25 Zodiac cat

26 Dime portrait

28 Spigot

30 Trail the pack

31 Unpaid TV ad

32 100 percent

33 Formerly known as

36 "Amen!"

37 "No One"

40 Rose parts

42 Bullet-proof

43 Perrier apparel

44 Yule tune

45 Some HDTVs

46 Fine

48 Apt. divisions

49 Feed-bag tidbit

50 — tear (raging)

51 Russian jet

Solution time: 25 mins.

FOG BESS RAS
IRE UGLI NCME
GENEHOUS BEI
FRE GAR FRS
HURRAH E
ABAURN PACES
HELD SAM LOPPE
ARSON MAR LEN
DIM PEELED
BANGLES BAA
ALEE AL ERGEN
LAIR IDOL EVA
INNS YEWES NET

Yesterday's answer 1-8

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Cynthia Erivo, 34; Gaby Hoffmann, 39; Sarah Polley, 42; Shirley Bassey, 84.

Happy Birthday: Opportunities are heading your way. Concentrate on professional gains, investment opportunities and finding new ways to use your skills. Take physical action to ensure that you get things done according to your specification. A personal relationship will undergo a positive change that will make your life manageable. Make physical improvements. Your numbers are 8, 12, 18, 26, 30, 37, 44.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Keep your life simple. Refuse to let outside influences interfere with your plans. Look at the possibilities, and consider what you have time to pursue and what will bring you the highest return. Discipline and intelligence will lead to success. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): When uncertainty sets in, take a step back. There is no point in taking a risk that can influence your income, reputation or status. Channel your energy into personal growth, physical fitness and self-improvement. Romance is on the rise. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Research, ask questions, check facts and be reluctant to act in haste. Time is on your side, and making the right decision will save time and money. A partnership will interest you, but don't get involved in a joint financial venture. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Explore new possibilities. Don't shy away from building a strong union with someone who can contribute to your plans. A change that

comes about will turn out better than anticipated. Don't make an unnecessary fuss. Romance is encouraged. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): A change someone makes will take you by surprise. Be hesitant to participate if you have any doubts. Time is on your side, and in the end, taking a conservative approach will end up being to your advantage. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Make self-improvement a priority. Set up a workout space or find a spot to make videos doing something that can help you launch a side business. Use your imagination and intelligence to get ahead. Romance is on the rise. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Refuse to let anyone push you around. Stand up for your rights, offer facts and proceed with your plans. An opportunity to make an adjustment at home that will encourage peace over discord is encouraged. Handle health and financial matters personally. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You'll be anxious to make a move. Consider the pros and cons. If you move too quickly, you will overlook an important detail that can be costly. Let your intuition guide you and your energy and fortitude help you achieve your goal. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): An unusual set of circumstances regarding a friend or relative will put you in a position of power. Do what's right; handle matters reasonably. Your outstanding performance will merit rewards. Romance is on the rise. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Consider what will make you happy, and head in that direction. You are the master of your destiny. The decisions you make will determine how well you do. Put your energy where it counts, and you'll discover what you can accomplish all by yourself. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Pick a direction, consider what you do well and enjoy, and turn it into a profitable venture. Take the initiative; refuse to let obstacles stand in your way. Be inventive and you will discover alternative means to get where you want to go. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Use your connections to help you put your plan in motion. Your ability to articulate what you want to do and offer a sound deal that attracts attention will lead to your success. A partnership looks promising. *****

Birthday Baby: You are active, ambitious and persistent. You are appealing and protective.

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku By Dave Green

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 1/08

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WONDERWORD By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

TROGLODYTES Solution: 6 letters

USEREPTILESOUND
DNELSSNAKEECAHLD
NECCITOOLHPOPAP
EETLLNETREUSRRA
AGFCOUOESRDKBOW
NAIRETSUOMOITIT
DUKBSTHISIONSSE
EGFBIREOETFUOAE
RNRNNCARDNELNPI
TARDHSSSPHAEODS
HLMIOSHELTERTRU
ASENOBEIEMITAHL
LFAGUNLDPRCOLDC
SLTLHOLESABCAVE
TELUASJEWELRYR

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Amulet, Apes, Aristotle, Binding, Bison, Boars, Bones, Bull, Cave, Chiefs, Cold, Dark, Draw, Fire, Flint, Food, Hermit, Holes, Hour, Isolated, Jewelry, Kinship, Language, Meat, Mound, Moustarian, Neanderthal, Nile, Ochre, Pastoral, Protected, Reclusive, Reptiles, Seasonal, Seclusion, Shells, Shelter, Skin, Snake, Sound, Teeth, Time, Tool, Unclothed, Warmth

Yesterday's Answer: Bedrooms

Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480.

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

FROM ANDREWS MCMEEL SYNDICATION
FOR RELEASE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2021
THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY BY EUGENIA LAST

George, Leonard lead Clippers over Warriors



SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Kawhi Leonard scored the tying basket with 6:40 to play, then put his team ahead with a jumper the following possession on the way to 21 points, and the Los Angeles Clippers beat the Golden State Warriors 108-101 on Wednesday night in the first of two straight matchups between the Pacific Division rivals.

Paul George returned from a one-game absence with a sore right ankle to add 21 points and 12 rebounds in the Clippers' fourth straight win against Golden State, which got just 13 points from Stephen Curry on a cold shooting night for the two-time MVP. He tweaked his left ankle late but it wasn't considered serious and Curry will receive treatment Thursday.

He had scored 92 the previous two games, including his

career-high 62 against Portland on Sunday night.

Players and coaches on both sides knelt for the national anthem following earlier chaos at the U.S. Capitol.

Marcus Morris Sr. made his season debut after being sidelined by a right knee injury but didn't think the teams should have played. It wasn't discussed, he said.

"It's hard to really put it into words just the direction this country is going in," Morris said. "... It's just unfortunate the state that we're in in this country."

"It was so disheartening," Warriors coach Steve Kerr said. "I think everybody came into the arena this evening just sort of dazed."

76ers 141, Wizards 136

Joel Embiid scored 38 points and the NBA-leading Philadelphia 76ers overcame a Washington record-tying

Serena and Barty to headline Aussie Open warm-up events

AUSTRALIA—World No. 1 Ashleigh Barty and 23-time Grand Slam champion Serena Williams will spearhead the two WTA tournaments in Melbourne ahead of the Australian Open, with the Top 32-ranked women split evenly across the simultaneous events, organizers said Thursday.

The onslaught of Covid-19 has forced a radical change to how the early 2021 tennis season will look, with the Australian Open pushed back three weeks to February 8.

Players will arrive in Australia from January 15 and undergo a mandatory two-week quarantine before two WTA 500 and two ATP 250 events are held alongside the ATP Cup, all at Melbourne Park.

Organizers have branded it the Melbourne Summer Series and named each tournament after areas of Victoria state.

That will see the women play the Gippsland Trophy and Yarra Valley Classic from January 31-February 6, marking Barty's first appearance in 11 months after opting out of the US and European swing last year over coronavirus fears.

As well as Williams, the likes of world number two Simona Halep, defending Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin and previous Australian Open winners Naomi Osaka, Victoria Azarenka and Angelique Kerber will take part.

The leading men's stars,

including Novak Djokovic and Rafael Nadal, will compete in the 12-team ATP Cup, which will be run at the same time and at the same venue.

Those that didn't qualify will play in two ATP 250 tournaments—the Great

Ocean Road Open and Murray River Open, featuring top names including David Goffin, Stan Wawrinka, Grigor Dimitrov and Nick Kyrgios.

"There's no doubt this will be an historic week of tennis, and is the biggest-ever Australian Open lead-in week we have seen," said Tennis Australia's major events chief Cameron Pearson.

"While we know the circumstances are unique this year, it is a huge coup to secure such strong playing fields."

Meanwhile, Nick Kyrgios has paid the price for a year of inaction over COVID-19 concerns after he was ruled out of Australia's team for next month's ATP Cup after his world ranking slipped to number 46 following a 11-month absence from the ATP Tour.

The 25-year-old last played a competitive match at Acapulco in February after deciding to remain at home in Australia when the circuit resumed in Europe and North America after a hiatus.

Each nation has two singles slots that will be taken by their top-ranked players and Australia's challenge at the ATP Cup will be led by Alex de Minaur and John Millman who are ranked 23 and 38, respectively.



60-point performance by Bradley Beal in a 141-136 win over the Wizards.

The Sixers are an NBA-best 7-1 in coach Doc Rivers' first season in Philadelphia.

Beal was stuffed on a layup and missed a 3-pointer inside the final minute. But the dynamic guard, who once scored 53 and 55 points in consecutive games, sank a free throw with 4.4 seconds left to reach 60. He went 20 of 25 from the floor, 7 of 10 on 3-pointers and was 13 for 15 from the line to match Gilbert Arenas for the franchise mark.

Magic 105, Cavaliers 94

Former top overall draft pick Markelle Fultz suffered a season-ending tear of the anterior cruciate ligament in his left knee during the first quarter of Orlando's win over Cleveland.

Fultz, off to the best start of his career, was driving to the basket less than five minutes into the game when he was cut off by Isaac Okoro and his left knee buckled without contact. The Orlando point guard writhed in pain on the floor for several minutes before he was helped into a wheelchair.

Fultz signed a three-year, \$50 million extension last

month and was finally showing the promise that made him the No. 1 pick in the 2017 draft as he led the Magic to a quick start this season. He came in averaging a career-best 14.3 points in seven games.

Celtics 107, Heat 105

Rookie guard Payton Pritchard's putback with 0.2 seconds left capped a wild finish, and Boston beat Miami in their first matchup since last year's Eastern Conference finals.

Jayson Tatum scored 27 points and Jaylen Brown had 21 for the Celtics, who wasted an early 17-point lead and a 10-point lead in the final minute before winning.

Jimmy Butler had 26 points for Miami.

Knicks 112, Jazz 100

Austin Rivers scored 23 points, including 14 straight for the Knicks down the stretch, and Julius Randle had 30 points, 16 rebounds and seven assists as New York won its third straight by beating Utah.

The Knicks trailed by 18 in the first half but outplayed the Jazz in the second and won for the fifth time in six games. It was tied at 96 with under five minutes to play before Rivers made four 3-pointers in the final 4:17.

Thunder 111, Pelicans 110

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 21 points, George Hill hit the go-ahead free throws with 12 seconds left, and Oklahoma City edged New Orleans.

The Pelicans had the final possession of the game, and top scorers Brandon Ingram and Zion Williamson both touched the ball. But it was second-year reserve guard Nickeil Alexander-Walker who took the last shot from 3-point range and it rimmed out.

Pacers 114, Rockets 107

Malcolm Brogdon scored a career-high 35 points and made the go-ahead 3-pointer with 2:22 to go, leading Indiana past Houston.

Justin Holiday added a season-best 20 points for Indiana, winner of two straight. It was the first time the Pacers the Rockets at home since January 2017.

John Wall had a season-high 28 points in his fourth game with his new team but James Harden finished with 15. Harden also had 12 assists for Houston.

Suns 123, Raptors 115

Devin Booker scored 24 points, Jae Crowder added 21 and Phoenix made 21 3-point-

ers against Toronto.

The Suns hit at least 20 3s for the fourth time in franchise history. Crowder led the way with six and Cameron Johnson added four as the Suns finished 21 of 40 (52.5%) from 3-point range.

Johnson scored 16 points to lead Phoenix's reserves, who poured in 42 points. Dario Saric added 15.

Bucks 130, Pistons 115

Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 25 points and Khris Middleton added 23 as Milwaukee rolled past Detroit for its third straight victory.

The Bucks (5-3) also beat the Pistons (1-7) on Monday night in Milwaukee and have won their last nine regular-season meetings with Detroit. Milwaukee was ahead 82-56 at halftime and led by 34 in the third quarter.

Jerami Grant had 31 points for the Pistons.

Hornets 102, Hawks 94

Gordon Hayward scored a career-high 44 points and Charlotte recovered to beat Atlanta after trailing for the first time in the fourth quarter.

The Hornets led by double figures most of the game before the Hawks claimed their first lead, 86-85, on John Collins' three-point play with 5:22 remaining. Hayward answered with a jumper and his own three-point play, and the Hornets never trailed again.

Collins led Atlanta with 23 points and 11 rebounds. Trae Young, averaging 28.6 points, scored only seven while going 2 of 9 from the field.

Kings 128, Bulls 124

Buddy Hield converted a four-point play with 38 seconds left to make up for a horrible shooting night, and Sacramento held off Chicago.

Hield missed 12 of his first 14 shots and was 1 of 8 on 3-pointers before hitting one from the top of the arc and getting fouled by former Kings teammate Garrett Temple. Hield sank the free throw and finished with 10 points.

First-round draft pick Tyrese Haliburton scored 15 of his season-high 17 points in the fourth quarter and made a key steal in the backcourt. Haliburton followed Hield's pivotal 3 with one of his own against a pair of Chicago defenders to help the Kings end a three-game losing streak.

Brady excited, ready to lead Bucs into playoffs



TAMPA, Fla.
(AP) — New team, same ole Tom Brady.

The six-time Super Bowl champion who left New England for sunny Florida is in the playoffs for a NFL-record 18th time in 21 years, and eager to build on an ever-expanding legacy in his first postseason appearance with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

Bill Belichick and the Patriots are home watching following a historic two-decade run with the 43-year-old quarterback, who's now pumping vitality into a franchise with the worst all-time winning percentage in the four major professional sports.

Brady led New England to the Super Bowl nine times in 20 seasons, appearing in 41 playoff games and winning 30—both records.

The Bucs, who will end a 13-year postseason drought when they face Washington in a NFC wild-card game Saturday night, have played 15 playoff games in the club's 45-season history.

"Anytime you make the playoffs, it's a good feeling, and it's a good opportunity to be playing this weekend, a privilege for any of us," Brady said Wednesday.

"We're a team that's made a bunch of improvements over the course of the year, and we have to be at our best. That's what this part of the season is all about," the three-time league MVP added. "The regular season is what it is. You realize you put it in the books, but we're here to win playoff games."

Brady left New England in



Tampa Bay Buccaneers quarterback Tom Brady (12) gestures during the first half of their NFL game against the Atlanta Falcons, Sunday, Jan. 3, 2021, in Tampa, Fla. AP

free agency, signing a two-year, \$50 million contract with the Bucs, who've surrounded him with an All-Star cast of playmakers that includes receivers Mike Evans, Chris Godwin and Antonio Brown, tight end Rob Gronkowski and running backs Ronald Jones and Leonard Fournette.

An improved defense has helped Brady continue to defy Father Time, too.

"It's amazing because when you're out there watching him in practice, you're like, 'This guy looks like he's 30, maybe

33 at most,'" coach Bruce Arians said.

"It's just amazing watching him and the way he works so hard at taking care of himself. That's not easy at 43, taking a few shots—hopefully not too many—and moving on. ... He really is a freak of nature in that regard."

It's never been Brady's style to call attention to his accomplishments, so he lets his play speak for what he's been able to do this season without benefit of a normal offseason or preseason to prepare for his

transition to a new team.

With a franchise-record 40 touchdown passes, he joined Aaron Rodgers, Drew Brees, Peyton Manning and Dan Marino as the only quarterbacks to throw at least 40 in multiple seasons. It also tied Russell Wilson for the second most in the league this year behind's Rodgers' 48.

"When he first signed I said, 'OK, we'll be a 40 (touchdown) and 10 (interception) team,'" Arians said. "I was expecting practice, I was expecting OTAs and those things.

What he's done with none of that—especially this last half of the season—is incredible."

Brady enters the playoffs coming off throwing for 1,067 yards and 10 touchdowns over the last eight quarters he played. He rallied the Bucs from double-digit deficits to win four times this season and has thrown for at least two TDs in seven consecutive games.

"As a player, he really hasn't changed," Gronkowski, the quarterback's favorite target in New England, said. "From the second I first met him, he's been all-in—all-in with practices, all-in at meetings, all-in trying to get better every single day."

In some ways, Brady has exceeded Arians' expectations.

"His leadership is beyond anything I've ever seen. Peyton Manning is the only thing close," said Arians, who's worked with Manning, Ben Roethlisberger, Carson Palmer and Andrew Luck while establishing a reputation as a quarterback whisperer.

"It's a never-ending thing with him, the perfectionist, to get everything right in practice," Arians added. "Also, his calmness on the sideline in games when we're not winning, saying 'We're going to win.' Those type of things. You put those in a bottle and you make a bunch of money."

It hasn't been all rosy, though.

While the Bucs went 10-0 against teams that failed to make the playoffs, they were 1-5 against opponents that earned berths. Brady had 10 touchdown passes and nine interceptions in the losses.

When Arians, who doesn't sugarcoat his assessment of quarterbacks, spoke publicly about Brady's early inconsistency many wondered if there was a rift developing between player and coach.

A four-game winning streak to end the regular season put that notion to rest.

"I feel like we have a great relationship. From the moment I got here, we've just had great dialogue and I certainly appreciate all the insight he gives me and the way he coaches and leads," Brady said.

"It's very open, honest dialogue about how we think, certainly how I can be most effective," Brady added. "Any questions he has, we always have a great, open line of communication. I really enjoy my time getting to know him, and I have great admiration for him as a coach, as a man, as what he is off the field and how he commands and leads the team."

Arians said there was never a problem.

"The chemistry really started in our first meeting. We first started talking offensive football and then the Tampa Bay Bucs. His excitement level and my excitement level just kept growing and is still growing," Arians said.

"We're still learning each and every week the little things, the game plans and situational football that we talk out," the coach added. "The collaboration has been awesome and like I've said, it's our job to keep him healthy, keep him upright and let him do his thing."

MLB prohibits teams from holding workouts before spring training

NEW YORK—Major League Baseball issued a memo to all 30 teams, forbidding them from holding unauthorized workouts or mini-camps at their facilities until spring training begins.

"We have been informed that some clubs intend to increase the number of players at their Spring Training facilities in January and February prior to the commencement of spring training," the memo reads.

"As you are all aware, COVID-19 is surging in the United States, and conditions may worsen after the holiday season. We have not yet received firm guidance from our medical experts on whether it is safe to conduct organized workouts in Club facilities under current conditions, and the protocols that would be required to conduct such workouts safely."

The Cleveland Indians re-

portedly invited players to participate in voluntary workouts at their spring training facility in Goodyear, Arizona, beginning Wednesday. The team planned to conduct its own series of coronavirus testing and host as many as 40 players, including reigning AL Cy Young winner Shane Bieber. However, MLB's memo shut it down before the workouts began.

MLB has yet to negotiate with the players union over new COVID-19 protocols for the 2021 season, according to reports. MLB will not make its leaguewide testing regimen available until spring training begins in mid-February. The only players permitted to use team facilities before then are injured players who require team-administered medical care, players who have a permanent resi-

dence nearby and other players approved by MLB.

It was reported earlier this winter that MLB could push back the start of spring training and Opening Day depending on the state of the pandemic in the U.S., but nothing has been made official at this point.

Training camp for minor leaguers playing in Double-A or below has already been delayed, though that has no bearing on the status of big-league spring training. Nationals GM Mike Rizzo said in December that his club is preparing as if both spring training and the regular season will begin on time.

Meanwhile, pitching is the top priority for the Boston Red Sox this offseason, and it looks like they have their eyes set on a veteran reliever to shore up their bullpen.

According to reports, the

Red Sox are among the teams interested in right-hander Alex Colomé. Other teams showing interest include the Houston Astros and Washington Nationals.

Colomé is coming off an outstanding 2020 season with the Chicago White Sox in which he posted a 0.81 ERA and 0.94 WHIP in 21 appearances. The 32-year-old spent the first six years of his MLB career in Tampa Bay, while Red Sox chief baseball officer Chaim Bloom was in the Rays front office, then played one season with the Seattle Mariners before joining the White Sox in 2019.

Boston recently signed right-hander Matt Andriese to a one-year contract, but there's no doubt more needs to be done to improve the pitching staff ahead of the 2021 campaign. Adding a reliable bullpen arm like Colomé would be a step in the right direction. (NBC)



Ong wins M2 Fitness Biggest Loser



Instructors and participants in the M2 Fitness Strong Zumba Movers class gather for a group photo after their session. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The fledgling M2 Fitness Strong Zumba Movers capped its inaugural season with a Biggest Loser Contest, awarding the first place honors to Debbie Ong.

Ong ruled the 21-day weight loss challenge after her 6.45% weight loss. She joined the competition weighing 130.2 lbs and then tipped the scale at 121.80 lbs at the end of the contest. Mhiles Navarro, Emily Santos, Annie Tamos, Lucelle Lampera, Mitch Olita, Catherine Attao-Toves, and Bay Waldo joined Ong in the Top 8.

Ong is among the 135 participants in M2 Fitness' regular Zumba and high-intensity interval training classes Mary Grace Bautista and Mishael Pelicano are conducting at the TSL Sports Complex.

"I am attending the Zumba and HITS workout for almost four months now. While attending the classes, I noticed a lot of changes in my body, including improvement in my strength and fitness," Ong said.



"I am truly honored and proud to be recognized as M2 Fitness Strong Zumba Movers Biggest Loser 2020 winner. This competition helped and motivated me a lot in pushing myself to be fit and valuing the importance of health," she added.

Ong vows to continue her health and fitness journey and encourages members of the community to do the same or find a way to be active.

Meanwhile, Bautista thanked

all the participants of their fitness classes and congratulated them for making significant improvements. She added that they will introduce some new programs this year.

"Starting this month, we are going to add Zumba Toning to our routine. We will make every routine more challenging as each day students increase their endurance and stamina. We will make every meet more exciting and fun for everyone," Bautista said. (Saipan Tribune)



Debbie Ong poses for a photo before joining the M2 Fitness Strong Zumba Movers class at the TSL Sports Complex. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

TENORIO

From Page 24

(June), Hallmark (July), Joey Dela Cruz (August), John Sablan (September), Yamagishi (October), and Patrick Guerrero (November).

Though there are only four monthly competitions left in the season, MGA is still accepting members. New members annual fee is \$40 and returning members is \$30.

Masters behind him, Johnson ready to keep going in new year

KAPALUA, Hawaii (AP)—Dustin Johnson will have gone 53 days from tapping in for par to win the Masters by five shots to blasting his tee shot down the hill at Kapalua toward the Pacific horizon.

A little rust is inevitable, even with being on Maui for more than a week.

Motivation doesn't appear to be an issue.

"Motivation for me, it's

not that hard," Johnson said Wednesday at the Sentry Tournament of Champions, where he has won twice. "I like being the best. I want to continue the good play and hopefully can have a little bit better year."

That would be hard to top.

Even a year shortened by the COVID-19 pandemic—Johnson missed two tourna-

ments when he tested positive—he was so good over the last five months that he ended the year with the biggest margin at No. 1 in the world in six years.

There's also that green jacket from the Masters that Johnson has worn a few times at home in Florida, once for a corporate outing and another time as a guest on ESPN's College Game Day (he

picked Coastal Carolina, his alma mater).

That was his crowning achievement, a victory so meaningful to him that he couldn't talk while wiping away tears. Johnson has the video of his record victory at Augusta National and still hasn't watched it. Details remain clear, especially as he goes shot-by-shot through the final round.

No telling how he will react

when he sees the emotion in his post-victory interview on the putting green at Augusta.

"Everyone that I've talked to or seen, obviously they really liked it and they said it was nice to see that I did show some emotion, just because I try out on the golf course not to try to get too excited or too upset," he said.

To look back beyond the Masters is equally impressive.



RACE

From Page 24

of young riders stood out in the Pee wee 1 and 2.

For its 2021 Points Race Season, MRA will award the No. 1 plate to the riders at the end of their seven-series competition. The association will also hand out the No. 2 and 3 plates to riders once the season is completed.

Jonoah Santos, Keenon Togawa, Theresa Borja, and Brooklynn Susulin are among the riders to watch in this season after recording victories in the "mock races" last year. In the Minis and Novice divisions, M.J. Camacho and Cory Pangelinan are the favorites. The Veterans Class is an open field, as no riders dominated the division last year, while the father-and-son duo of Cuki and Shane Alvarez repeatedly figured at the top of



JOSEPH CHIN

An MTV rider takes on the dirt-covered course at the Marianas Motocross Park last Sunday during the Marianas Racing Association Series 6.

the ladder in the Expert Open with Angelo Hernaez joining them in the Top 3 in the last three occasions.

The series of points races

will kick off on Jan. 24. Round 2 to 6 are slated for Feb. 28, March 28, April 25, May 30, and June 27, while the season finale is scheduled for July 25.



Pee wee Class riders head out to the course. JOSEPH CHIN

Race fees are \$5 per division, per rider and interested participants must settle their membership fees first to be able to join the competition.

MRA members that will pay their membership fees for one year will get a one-month free membership.

Meanwhile, MRA will also

schedule a general membership meeting before starting the point race season with the date and venue to be announced later.



George,
Leonard lead
Clippers over
Warriors

PAGE 21

Saipan Tribune Sports

Brady excited,
ready to lead
Bucs into
playoffs

PAGE 22



24 FRIDAY, JANUARY 8, 2021

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Race to No. 1 plate on



JOSEPH CHIN
Billie Pangelinan, left, and Shaniah Alvarez are in a close race in the Powerpuff Class.

JOSEPH CHIN
Shane Alvarez leads Melvin Cepeda during the Expert Open race in last Sunday's Marianas Racing Association Series 6 at the Marianas Motocross Park.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

This is it for dirt bike and ATV riders, as they will be up for a series of competitive races for six months with the Marianas Racing Association kicking off the 2021 Points Race Season.

"On behalf of the MRA board, I am pleased to announce the start of our official 2021 Points Race Season," MRA vice president Cuki Alvarez said.

"After practicing and racing consistently the past several months at the Kan Pacific grounds and now CowTown, and after hosting many 'mock' races, we feel riders have earned and deserved the opportunity to compete and race for the No. 1 plate and top positions," Alvarez said.

Mid last year, MRA, in a successful bid to revive motocross on island, built make-shift courses at the Kan Pacific

grounds and has held regular practice races. Then in November, the association hosted a series of actual races with the first three taking place at the Kan Pacific grounds and the last three at the Marianas Motocross Park (where the former CowTown Raceway is located).

Every Sunday, the number of riders joining MRA races keeps growing, particularly in the youth division (Peewee Class 1 and 2). MRA races also feature the Mini 1 and 2, Novice Class, Expert Open, and Veterans. There were lead changes in the adult races, while a couple



See RACE on Page 23



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Shine Tenorio, seen here getting ready for a shot, won the Marianas Golf Association December Ace.

Tenorio takes MGA December Ace

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REPORTER

Shine Tenorio triumphed in the Marianas Golf Association December Ace tournament held last month at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

The 18-handicapper posted a net 67 for a three-stroke win over many-time CNMI national team member Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho (net 70). Tenorio shot a 41 on the front and 44 on the back for a gross 85. Camacho, a 3-handicapper, registered the lowest gross with his 73, built around his 38 in the first nine holes and 35 in the last. Joining Tenorio and Camacho in the Top 3 was July Ace Don Hallmark, who delivered a 49 and 45 on the front and back nines, respective, and deducting his 22 handicap, the latter ended up with a net 72.

John Terlaje (net 73), James Benavente (77), Jeff Lee Camacho (76), Dung

Tenorio (76), Chris Groves (76), Calvin Yamagishi (78), Chris Leon Guerrero (81), Jack Sabalas (81), and Jerome Sablan (82) were the other participants in the MGA December Ace held last Dec. 19. Tony Benavente and Alvin Salas also saw action in last month's competition as guest players.

In the side event, Jeff Lee Camacho, Groves, Dung Tenorio, and Hallmark won closest to the pin shots on No. 6, No. 8, No. 12, and No. 15 holes, respectively. All are par-3 holes with the No. 8 the longest at 139 yards, followed by No. 12 (134 yards), No. 15 (120), and No. 6 (83).

MGA holds monthly tournaments to determine the qualifiers for its club championship. Its 2020-2021 season started last May and will end in April. The early qualifiers are Ron Benavente (May Ace), Chris Leon Guerrero

See TENORIO on Page 23

